

Hafa Adai!

TSL Foundation awards \$10K to 10 NMC students. **PAGE 2**  
Arrivals in the Marianas continue to recover in Jan. **PAGE 3**

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75¢

## 4 schools resume full-day classes; 4 still at half-day

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School moving yesterday to a new temporary campus across Koblerville Elementary School, a total of four Public School System campuses have now reverted to regular full-day sessions.

That leaves the William S. Reyes Elementary School in San Antonio, Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, and Francisco

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### ON H-2B VISA EXCLUSION OF PH WORKERS

## Torres offers possible solutions

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has offered Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan possible solutions to fix the current predicament the CNMI is experiencing regarding the H-2B visa eligibility of skilled workers from the Philippines.

In that spirit, he invited Sablan in a letter last  
See **TORRES** on **Page 4**

## Storm still en route to pass Marianas

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The tropical disturbance that has been developing off the coast of Kosrae over the weekend is still en route to pass near the Marianas this weekend.

According to the National Weather Services in Tiyan, Guam, the disturbance is expected to turn west-northwest or northwest and pass southwest of

See **STORM** on **Page 4**



Angelina DeLemos, who was one of the few hundreds declared as CNMI Permanent Resident during the early days of the Commonwealth, now operates a dress shop on Beach Road.  
BEA CABRERA

## Life under diverse immigration statuses

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Ever since the CNMI opened its doors to foreign workers and business people, the islands have become a refuge for newcomers, carrying with them renewed hopes, dreams, and

energy. Most of them found what they came here for and, for others, the circumstances exceeded expectations.

Angeline DeLemos, a Filipino contract worker, arrived on Saipan in 1975 and has experienced what it's like to live on constantly shifting immigration grounds.

She was recruited in the Philippines with three other workers by Herman Palacios, owner of The Place Restaurant back in the day. She arrived here on Feb. 4, 1975.

"I was in my mid-20s when I left my family and country to come and work on Saipan," she said. "Our contract was pretty regular as our work and vacation schedules were fol-

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### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

CUC chief now says that MOUs with other utilities hastened the CNMI's recovery.

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#### NATION

Sixteen states have filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump's wall on the border.

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#### ASIA

The Philippine health secretary said that 136 people, mostly children, have died of measles.

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## Local

## TSL Foundation awards \$10K to 10 NMC students



Ten Northern Marianas College students are awarded the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship. Also in photo are NMC vice president Cyndi Deleon Guerrero, standing third from left, and president of Tan Holdings Corp., Jerry Tan, standing fifth from right, together with TSL Foundation Scholarship recipients.

NMC

To emphasize its commitment to expanding higher education opportunities for CNMI students, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation recently awarded \$1,000 to 10 Northern Marianas Col-

lege students.

The award was made as part of the TSL Foundation's Scholarship Program, which has been awarding scholarship money to NMC students

annually for 16 years. Since the company's first presentation of scholarships in 2003, the TSL Foundation Scholarship Program has officially provided \$100,000 in schol-

arship money to deserving NMC students.

The foundation is the charitable arm of Tan Holdings Corp.

From a highly competitive selection process, the following NMC students were selected to receive \$1,000 each this year: Ezekiel Alfred, Jimmy R. Blancia Jr., Aysha P. Cabrera, Joyce M. Cuenca, Jessa Lyn P. Lizama, Eloise E. Lopez, Arah Jean F. Manabat, Marie F. Manebo, Cristine B. Ruiz, and Frankly M. Santos.

The students are pursuing degrees in Accounting, Business Management, Liberal Arts, Education, Nursing, and Natural Resource Management.

"The Tan Siu Lin Foundation recognizes Northern Marianas College's central role in educating and training residents of the CNMI," said

Jerry Tan, Tan Holdings president. "We are glad to partner with the college by helping to advance its workforce development efforts and to provide these scholarship funds to help students along their educational journey."

"The TSL Foundation has, for many years, supported our students and our institution in many ways, including making available this scholarship program that has awarded more than \$100,000 since the program began," said interim college president Frankie Eliptico. "We are thankful to Mr. Tan, the TSL Foundation, and the Tan Holdings family of companies for their continued commitment to our students' success."

The foundation, originally named Tan Holdings Foundation, was formed in 2002 and was renamed af-

ter the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. The TSL Foundation's main mission is to better serve the regions where it operates to make such communities a better place to live.

The scholarships are based on merit and are awarded on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The written essay also plays a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

The selection committee was composed of representatives from TSL Foundation and NMC. (NMC)

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## Arrivals in the Marianas continue to recover in Jan.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota continued to recover in January 2019 following Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the destination in October 2018.

While December 2018 arrivals were about half as many as the previous December, January saw 36,878 visitors, 33-percent lower than the 55,249 visitors received in January 2018, but still marking a double-digit jump in recovery over last month.

"Tourism is a volatile industry, influenced by many national and international factors beyond our control, even natural disasters like Yutu," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Fortunately, many hotels and other businesses were back to normal operations very quickly after the storm, but we are still working to overcome immense international publicity about the devastation of the storm. The Marianas Visitors Authority and our partners are implementing numerous strategies to restore confidence in and demand for the Marianas as a safe and beautiful destination, especially in our Korea market. It is taking time, but we are definitely heading in the right direction to restore our tourism economy, especially with six new charter flights from Japan scheduled to start next month."

Although Japan posted an 83-percent drop in January to 631 visitors, compared to January 2018 when daily flights operated from Tokyo's Narita International Airport, prospects for the market are bright with the commencement of direct flights from Tokyo with six charter flights on March 22-27, 2019, by Skymark Airlines. Package sales by travel agencies JTB, H.I.S. and KNT are selling well for the initial flights, and additional charters are being planned for Japan's Golden Week holiday in April. The airline is also slated to start regular daily flights in July 2019, marking a much-anticipated turnaround for the once-dominant market.

Arrivals from China reached 18,880 in January 2019, only 4 percent off the previous year's mark. The Marianas now receives 17 direct weekly flights from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, and Hong Kong. In order to accelerate market recovery and drive sales performance, the MVA participated in 2018 National Tourism Fashion

Awards, where the Marianas was named "Best Island Travel Destination." Recruitment for Saipan Marathon 2019

continues in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Guangzhou and Xiamen. New promotions were developed, including express-

way billboard advertisements in Guangzhou and metro advertisement in Shenzhen.

Arrivals from Korea post-

ed double-digit recovery compared to December but were still 49-percent lower than January 2018 at 14,551,

largely due to a 40-percent reduction in available air seats as the market continues to re-

See ARRIVALS on Next Page

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## TORRES

From Page 1

week to a meeting to discuss the needs of the people of the CNMI in relation to federal workforce laws.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services declared last month that construction workers from the Philippines, Dominican Republic, and Ethiopia could no longer be brought into the United States under the H-2B visa program due to potential abuses.

This is worrisome for the CNMI since the Philippines is its primary source of construction workers.

Torres said the provision on construction workers being prohibited to use the CW-1 [CNMI-Only Transitional Worker] program based on U.S. Public Law 115-218—or the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018—has become a problem that prevents the community from getting the needed labor force to rebuild homes and other infrastructure after the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu last October.

“I write to you in this spirit with the hopes of gaining your

cooperation and assistance in bringing normalcy back to the lives of people who have been affected by the recent disasters,” said Torres in his letter to Sablan.

Torres added that the issue has shown that the CNMI does not have enough workers in the construction trades—plumbers, carpenters, masons, etc.—to help the community build a typhoon-resilient community.

“While I understand that the impetus behind the prohibition of construction workers was the assumption that there would be available opportunities to source construction labor through the H-2B visa classification, this is not the case now,” said Torres.

“As made apparent based on a 2016 interpretation of the regulatory language governing the qualification of what constitutes a ‘temporary need,’ many petitions filed by construction firms for H-2B labor have been denied, effectively closing off all legal avenues for the CNMI to source the labor necessary to undertake the massive rebuild effort that is needed.”

### Legislative fix

Torres has offered two possible legislative remedies

that are projected to result in positive outcomes for the Commonwealth.

“I ask for your consideration in championing amendments to P.L. 115-218 to include an exemption to the prohibition on construction occupations, Section 6(a)(3)(D)(v), for petitions within a maximum allowable quota that will be provided annually to the [the U.S. Department] of Homeland Security Secretary and [U.S. Department of Labor] Secretary under Section 6(b)(3)(B) of the law,” said Torres.

“Additionally, I ask that you consider an inclusion into the forthcoming disaster spending appropriation for the CNMI that would mirror the provision contained in U.S. P.L. 115-232, Section 1045, allowing for H-2B workers to be granted admission into the CNMI to perform labor in the performance of contracts or subcontracts for construction, repairs, renovations, or facility services that is connected or associated with a presidential disaster declaration for a period of five years following the declaration.”

He suggested the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the federal agency

that would certify activities connected to recovery efforts.

Critical to the recommendation, Torres said, is the authorization of the CNMI government or a regional labor entity “such as those currently present in Guam, to be the responsible party in the issuance of foreign labor certifications.”

“As is currently, the practice in Guam under U.S. P.L. 115-232, a local certification authority would be responsible to work alongside FEMA representatives to define eligibility requirements and processes for petitioning foreign labor in construction occupations related to the repair and recovery of our islands.”

Torres said that the solutions that he suggested are based on existing provisions as he asked Sablan to use his connections beyond party lines in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Measures such as these are necessary to ensure our residents have the skilled laborers to repair and rebuild homes that are more resilient to the next disaster and the processes I have recommended here use existing provisions that are employed today,” he said.

“I ask that you work with your Democratic and Repub-

lican colleagues in the House of Representatives to see that the needs of our people recovering from [Super] Typhoon Yutu continue to be met.”

### Torres’ DC schedule

Torres left for Washington, D.C. yesterday to attend the four-day National Governors Association winter meeting from Feb. 23 to 26. He will be out for almost two weeks. He has also scheduled to meet with U.S. congressional members and officials from the White House, DHS, FEMA, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Insular Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Torres has requested the federal government to convene the Section 902 Talks in connection with the CNMI’s immigration issues and its economic viability.

He is scheduled to meet with acting Interior secretary David Berhardt, and Insular and International Affairs assistant secretary Douglas

W. Domenech, before the NGA meeting.

Torres and the four other U.S. territory governors are scheduled for the 2019 Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas at the White House on Feb. 25, Monday, and will also meet with Sablan later in the afternoon at the CNMI Delegate’s office.

The following day, Feb. 26, Torres and the other governors of the territories, at the invitation of Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), will testify before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

On Feb. 27, Torres is scheduled to testify before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee on an invitation by Sablan in connection with the hearing on the CNMI Delegate’s H.R. 560—the Northern Mariana Islands Residents Relief Act—and the impact of the Philippines’ H-2B worker visa eligibility. He would end the day with a meeting with DoD officials.

## LIFE

From Page 1

lowed. I would work straight here and then...go home for a vacation,” she said.

Many years later, in 1982, from being a contract worker, DeLemos became a Northern Marianas resident.

According to Antonio Sablan, former director of immigration under the Commonwealth, it was a status granted under the CNMI Permanent Resident Statute.

“It was an immigration status or entitlement that provided CNMI permanent residency to non-U.S. citizens at the time the CNMI became a Commonwealth. This [status] was granted to Filipino, Japanese, Korean residents who were living here at the time, provided they met the requirements... it states that you are now a member of the community,” he said.

“This was granted from the early years of the Com-

monwealth up until the ‘federal takeover.’ These people basically lived here as U.S. citizens in a sense that, under our immigration status, they can live, work in any company that they want, open a business they deemed fit and this exempts them from renewing their work permit every year,” he added.

Sablan said the spirit behind the CNMI Permanent Resident Statute was that the leaders back then recognized the long-term community contribution that these people rendered to the CNMI. “Some of these people came here to work and some went into business and so it was our way to recognize the efforts and time of these people to help with the CNMI’s progress,” Sablan said. “...Legislative leaders enacted this law to make them a part of the community and to tell them that you are welcome in our community.”

“This freed these people from having to apply for work permit every year because, with the permanent resident

status, you don’t need to go through the application process every year as they have been here a long time... Some of them were able to bring their children here as we also granted...Immediate Relative status and some of them basically made the CNMI their home,” he added.

Now 71 years old, DeLemos said she still has her Northern Marianas resident card. “The government gave that to us in 1982...During that time, it was the CNMI that was running and implementing their own immigration laws under the Commonwealth and not under U.S. federal law. ...As a resident, you can go back and forth from Manila to Saipan without document as our your I.D. was like a green card,” she said.

“This new status gave me the opportunity to work in different companies—Joeten, at the Hafadai Hotel, Intercontinental Inn, and eventually my late husband and I opened a construction and real estate business, which is still active

until now and, on the side, I own the Ruth’s Dress Shop along Beach Road. I remember I was one of about 100 Filipinos who were granted residency and I never took it for granted. I continued to work hard and was able to provide jobs,” she added.

The CNMI Permanent Resident Statute was akin to having a U.S. green card.

“This allowed residents to travel back and forth between the CNMI and Manila and work anywhere as they didn’t need to go to the Department of Labor to secure a permit,” said Sablan.

He said some of the law’s rules were patterned after the U.S. green card program. “We did that because we were basically under the U.S. Constitution and our immigration laws are patterned from the U.S.,” Sablan said, who is now the Legislative Bureau chief.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## SCHOOLS

From Page 1

M. Sablan Middle School in San Antonio as the only four schools that are still on half-day schedules.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña said yesterday that the four schools that have reverted to full-day sessions since last week are Saipan Southern High School, Dandan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, and Marianas High School.

Up until the second week of February, Saipan Southern High School shared its campus with the Northern Marianas College, which would be resuming morning classes at the As Terlaje campus today, while Hopwood shared the Marianas High School campus in Susupe with MHS students.

He said that PSS is working around the clock and taking advantage of the presence of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Saipan to re-open full class schedules across the CNMI, adding that PSS is eying to revert FMS to its full-day schedule in a few weeks.

“WSR is going to take a bit longer because they lost one entire building, but for those that sustained minor damage, we were able to repair [them],” said Muña.

SSHS, DMS, WSR, and OES have been operating on half-day sessions since Dec. 3, 2018, over a month after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI, devastating most of southern Saipan and most of Tinian.

Hopwood, MHS, SVES, and FMS were all on half-day sessions a week after on Dec. 10, 2018.

## ARRIVALS

From Page 3

cover following Yutu. Asiana Airlines has also temporarily reduced it aircraft size with a corresponding reduction in seats from 250 to 175 per flight. Jeju Air resumed nighttime flights from Incheon to Saipan on Jan. 21. Last to resume flights since Yutu will be T’way Air, which is scheduled to resume five times weekly from March 31, increasing to daily flights on May 15. The MVA is continuing its “We Together” campaign through multiple on- and offline channels to reboot demand for the destination.

### Economic highlights

The Korean economy grew 2.7 percent year-on-year in

2018, retreating from the 3.1 percent gain in 2017 to its slowest economic gain since 2012. The average USD/won exchange rate in January was 1120.44 won, a slight decrease from the 1123.52 won rate in December 2018.

In December 2018, China’s nationwide consumer price index increased by 1.9 percent than the previous year.

In 2018, the number of Chinese outbound tourists reached a new high. According to the China Outbound Tourism Research Institute, the number of Chinese outbound in 2018 has exceeded 160 million.

The Japan National Tourism Organization reported that the number of Japanese overseas travelers was up 6.0 percent year on year, reaching 18,954,000 in 2018. (MVA)

## STORM

From Page 1

Guam around Sunday.

This is seen to bring increased rain and gusty winds to the Marianas this weekend.

There remains the uncertainty of the exact strength of the system as it passes near the Marianas.

Models continue to indicate gradual development of the system through the week, but

its development in the past 24 to 48 hours has been considerably slower than models have forecasted.

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios is advising residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to stay informed about the latest forecasts and statements that will be available through local media sources.

The tropical disturbance is now located about 1,210 miles southeast of Guam and remains the subject of a tropi-

cal cyclone formation alert by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

It is moving west at around 10 mph.

Strong trade winds north of the disturbance persist across Micronesia from Chuuk state eastward to the Marshall Islands.

Deep convection remains unevenly distributed around the circulation mainly to the west and north of the center.

The convection, however,

is closer to the center than 24 hours ago and a narrow band of showers is found in the westerly flow south of the center. This circulation is expected to slowly become better organized in the next few days.

Models show that the circulation will continue westward through Thursday, then pass south of Chuuk around Wednesday or Thursday, before turning to the west-northwest or northwest and pass southwest of Guam.



# Hopwood temporarily moves to Koblerville

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School started their first day of classes yesterday at their own temporary campus next to the Koblerville Elementary School.

Besides moving out of Marianas High School, where they've been holding classes in the morning, the middle school also reverted to a whole day schedule. That averts any delays in graduations and promotions.

"The students are happy to get their full day [classes] back and the teachers here

are happy to get their own campus," said Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag yesterday.

The move affects 900 students and 68 Hopwood staff.

The temporary Hopwood campus has 42 structures, 36 of which are classroom that are equipped with air-conditioning, new tables, and even internet connectivity. There are also Americans with Disabilities, or ADA, compliant units with makeshift ramps.

"The Federal Emergency Management Agency had delivered 180 tables to us for use [at Hopwood]," said Education Commissioner Glenn

Muña, including several tables and chairs that were salvaged from the almost completely destroyed Hopwood campus in Chalan Piao.

CNMI 2019 Instructor of the Year Michael Berbes, in a

chance interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said he is neutral about moving to a new temporary campus because of his military training. "I just go with the flow—whatever they give us. I just adapt to

it," he said when asked about his opinion about the move.

Berbes is an instructor at Hopwood for the Middle School Leadership Board, along with after-school programs for 6th to 8th graders.

He did note that having a dedicated campus for Hopwood students addresses

some safety concerns. "It's sufficient," he said. "It is our own space so we don't have to worry about the students' [classes]."

With the move, Hopwood Middle School joins the majority of Public School System schools that are operating on a regular full-day basis.

## Harboring illegal aliens gets woman a year in prison

Sasha Sun, 48, from Tumon, Guam, was recently sentenced in the U.S. District Court of Guam to 12 months in prison for harboring illegal aliens.

The Guam court also ordered Sun to be placed on three years of supervised release following her release from custody and to pay a mandatory \$100 special assessment fee.

Additionally, the court ordered the forfeiture of Sun's San Vitores Village condominium and \$74,794.00 in U.S. currency.

Homeland Security Investigations' undercover operation revealed that Sun, the owner of the Joy Luck Club in Tumon, illegally employed three female aliens from Taiwan.

The aliens entered Guam as tourists under the visa waiver program, a program that grants entry of certain aliens into Guam for 45 days. Those entering under the program are prohibited from working while on island. However, Sun employed the female aliens as hostesses, selling \$20 drinks to men who patronized the business. Sun paid the aliens \$10 for every drink they sold.

Shawn N. Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, said, "Those who recruit and harbor aliens for unlawful employment [in] Guam will face criminal prosecution and the potential forfeiture of assets related to their crimes. In this case, Sun also used her condominium to house the aliens who were illegally working. In addition, the money found in her condominium was illegal proceeds from the unlawful harboring of those aliens. The U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to aggressively prosecuting these offenses and eliminating any financial incentive to engage in such conduct."

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations and the Guam Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Rosetta San Nicolas, an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Guam. (PR)

## 'Improvements on tourist spots on Rota continue'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Six months following the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota, work continues to enhance major tourist spots on the island.

Gloria Cavanagh, Marianas Visitors Authority board member and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair, said the changes that are being made to revive and improve tourist spots on Rota following Mangkhut are "absolutely gorgeous."

"The ongoing projects are great even with the storm... pushed them back," she added.

One of the spots that is still

under renovation is the Bird Sanctuary, Cavanagh said. "We went to Bird Sanctuary and they did a lot of the work on the top area and they found they needed to do a little more work on the railings and so that's the next step. ...It's a gem, it's absolutely gorgeous, and it needed that work," she said.

Although MVA is currently facing a budget crunch because of the drop in hotel occupancy, Cavanagh said that money has already been allocated for the improvement of Rota's tourist spots. The only issue is that construction has become more costly as a result of both Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu.

"All of the projects are on-

going and the money has been set aside for those projects so there is nothing really that is holding it back other than, of course, problems with construction workers. After the storm, all construction costs have been elevated, so the projects on Rota as well as in Saipan and Tinian are getting more expensive," she said.

Another issue Rota faces is still the lack of cheaper flights.

"It's cost-restrictive. To go to Rota is still \$250 to \$260. We need a direct flight—something that's a little bigger and more cost efficient. I know TanHoldings is spending a lot of money there to...build up the tourism market on Rota

but because of...Mangkhut, everything is kind of pushed back," she said.

MVA is still prepared to offer travel incentives for Rota to boost the tourism market on the island.

"I think it was last year when MVA reserved money to help with travel incentives for Rota. That money is still intact. ... That funding was not used and that was basically allocated for that," she said.

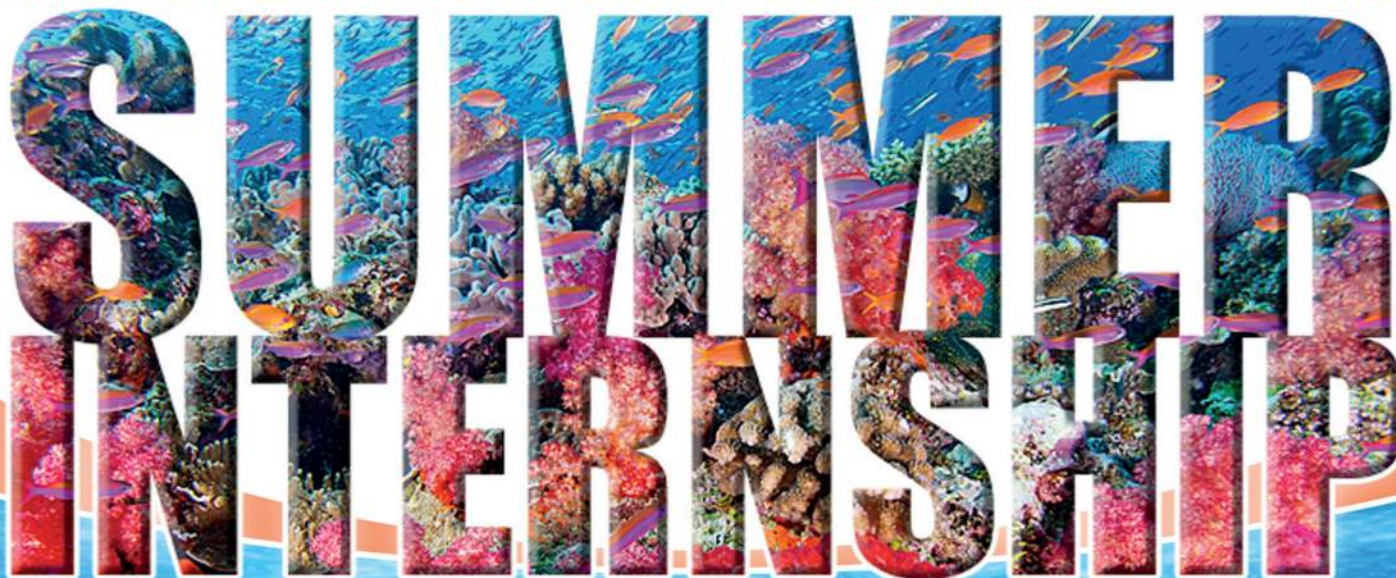
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- POLICE CLEARANCE (within the last 3 months)
- COPY OF PHOTO ID (driver's license, passport, etc.)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE EMAIL JIHAN YOUNIS AT OUTREACH@DCRM.GOV.MP OR MALLORY MUNA AT MMUNA@DCRM.GOV.MP OR CALL THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AT 664-8300.



# CUC: MOU with other utilities hastened NMI's recovery

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gary Camacho, the executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., credits the many memoranda of understanding they inked with other utility providers for creating powerful partnerships that came handy after the onslaught by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

CUC's latest MOU is with the Guam Water Authority, with Camacho and his counterpart, Miguel C. Bordallo, signing the MOU. Camacho said this further strengthened ties between the CNMI and its southern neighbor.

"These are the types of relationships that you need in these times of disasters. The MOU is to assist each other in times of need. It establishes a professional working relationship to enhance each other's utilities. It is to assist each other in an event of a disaster," said Camacho.

"They [GWA] were out here for the first time. They are a bunch of wonderful guys that really assisted us in getting our water back to 24 hours. They worked well with



our [CUC] staff and there was a lot of respect between the two groups. I will never forget what they've done for us and we will be there for them in the future."

CUC already has a longstanding partnership with the Guam Power Authority under one of Camacho's mentors, general manager John Benavente. The one Camacho and Bordallo signed renews that commitment.

CUC signed such MOUs in

the last couple of years with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, San Antonio's City Public Service Energy Texas, Hawaii Electric, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei Utilities Corp. and Kosrae Utility Authority.

Camacho said these partnerships helped the CNMI recover from Yutu, as restoration work on power and water services were much faster compared to the time when Typhoon Soudelor hit the

CNMI in August 2015. "These [MOU's] are the things that you need that would be beneficial in the future."

"We were not going to be able to do these types of emergency response without the help of our partners. We couldn't have done it alone. You need to have these kinds of relationships," added Camacho, who was present in yesterday's Senate Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee hearing.

tee hearing.

Linemen and other crews from the FSM, Guam, Palau, and private contractor Primary Source Electric helped CUC restore power and water distribution after Yutu. Some had

JON PEREZ

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho, third from right, updates members of the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee during a meeting yesterday on Capital Hill.

already left the islands, while others like PSE and GPA continue to assist CUC in replacing wooden power poles with concrete ones as part of a hardening project.

"You need to have an understanding on the quality of work that you are looking for. They need to know and prepare themselves and we need to prepare ourselves for them. And all the work that these people have been willing to assist us with is indeed never going to be forgotten by the CNMI and CUC. We appreciate everything that they have done," said Camacho.

## 500 Sails prepares for free swimming lessons program

The first orientation for the Gamsun Project of 500 Sails to provide free swimming lessons for K-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth took place last Feb. 1 at the beach front by Guma Sakman on Beach Road.

Two more orientation days—Feb. 8 and 15—were done at the Guma Sakman.

Regular classes would start on Feb. 28 and last through May 31, 2019, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Bring beachwear, drinking water, and a towel. The time will be split between swim class and free play.

Orientation days were an opportunity for 500 Sails Gamsun Project lifeguards and staff to establish lifeguarding procedures specific to that location. It was also a time for experienced teachers to share knowledge with new assistants in preparation for the eight-week program.

Classes will take place beachfront by the Guma Sakman on Beach Road. This is perhaps the best beach to learn how to swim on Saipan. The currents are gentle, the water is clean and clear and not too deep, and the Guma Sakman has a shower and working bathrooms during all swim classes (500 Sails has found a temporary solution while waiting for repairs to the building to be completed).

In addition, the Guma Sakman is located between DCCA's Seafaring Traditions



500 Sails Gamsun Project lifeguards and Co-founder Emma Perez

Program and the Northern Marianas Paddle Sports Federation, in an area that has become synonymous with cultural marine activity.

During orientation days, 500 Sails worked with newly certified lifeguards from Marianas High School who had free mornings due to their school's schedule. This committed group of youth come and volunteer as lifeguards before going to school in the afternoons. Beginning Feb. 28, their counterparts from Saipan Southern will join to guard and assist teaching for

afternoon classes.

The 500 Sails Gamsun Project is made possible by partnerships with NMC-CREES-Family, Community and Youth Development Program, and 4-H Marianas. We have also had assistance from Marianas High School and members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. Certification was through Western Pacific Training Solutions LLC.

500 Sails has been generously supported by a development grant from the Administration for Native Americans

that has helped to create health initiatives combined with our mission. Created in 2014, our mission is one of cultural revival. We are committed to restoring the maritime traditions of the Marianas.

To enroll in 500 Sails Gamsun Project classes, email Lorenza Aldan at lorenza.aldan@marianas.edu. You can also register at the classes, so come a few minutes early.

To learn more about 500 Sails, visit 500sails.org or follow us on Facebook @500SailsDolphinSwimClub. (PR)

## US, Japan, Australia forces take part in COPE North '19 exercise

**ASAN, Guam**—The United States, Japan and Australia are participating in a joint military exercise called COPE North 2019 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, until March 8, 2019.

This longstanding exercise is designed to enhance multilateral air operations among the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) and Royal Australian Air Force.

More than 2,000 U.S. airmen, Marines and sailors will train alongside approximately 850 combined Koku Jieitai and RAAF service members. Additionally, nearly 100 U.S., Japanese and Australian aircraft from 21 flying units will participate in CN19.

The exercise will begin with a weeklong humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training event that will

then lead to the need for a large-force employment, all of which is designed to increase readiness among the allied nations. The exercises focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief provides critical training to U.S. and allied forces that has a direct impact on the militaries' ability to support the region, including Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Beginning in 1978 as a quarterly bilateral exercise held at Misawa Air Base, Japan, COPE North moved to Andersen in 1999. Today, as U.S. Pacific Air Forces' largest multilateral exercise, the annual event demonstrates the U.S. Air Force's commitment to peace and security throughout the Indo-Pacific region by enabling regional forces to hone vital readiness skills critical to maintaining regional stability. (PR)

## Pelkey joins Bank of Guam subsidiary

**HAGATNA, Guam**—Maree Pelkey has joined BankGuam Holding Co.'s subsidiary, BG Investment Services, Inc., as vice president, investment advisor representative.



Pelkey

Pelkey is an Academy of Our Lady of Guam alumna and received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Guam in 2006.

In 2012, Pelkey obtained a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Guam.

She holds a number of professional licenses and certifications, including General Securities License Series 7, Uniform Securities License Series 66, Life and Health Insurance License (Guam) and Accredited Investment Fiduciary.

Pelkey joins BGIS from Raymond James & Associates where she was a business manager. She was previously with Morgan Stanley, Guam Economic Development Authority, and Bank of Guam's Trust Department. (PR)



## GAIN wants dismissal of charges vs alleged pet killer appealed

GUAM—Last Monday, Feb. 11, Judge Michael Bordallo dismissed all felony charges against Gerald Wayne Cruz II relating to a string of animal shootings in Yigo last year.

On Sept. 27, 2018, a pet dog named Pugua was found shot dead in a Yigo family's carport. More animals were later found fatally gunned down in the same neighborhood. Following a high-profile two-week search, GPD arrested Cruz.

In a grand jury indictment, Cruz admitted to killing neighborhood cats. His wife

confirmed she saw him shoot and kill neighborhood pet dogs, including Pugua.

Guam law states "A person is guilty of first degree animal abuse if he intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes serious physical injury to an animal, cruelly causes its death, or tortures it." First-degree animal abuse is a felony. Numerous states use the same type of language to successfully prosecute similar cases.

But in last week's ruling, Bordallo dismissed all felony charges related to the killings,

arguing that Pugua and other pets shot by Cruz were not killed "cruelly" because there is no proof these animals suffered before dying.

Guam Animals In Need, or GAIN, is calling upon the Guam attorney general to appeal the decision.

"This is a dangerous ruling," said GAIN board president Cyrus Luhr. "According to this interpretation, it's a felony to shoot your neighbor's pet in the leg, but a misdemeanor to shoot it in the head."

"Imagine someone trespass-

ing onto your property and killing your family pet," added Luhr. "This ruling effectively makes this heinous act a slap-on-the-wrist misdemeanor, as long as the killer is a good shot. It's a bizarre interpretation that ignores the spirit of the law."

In dismissing the charges, Bordallo cited a Pennsylvania ruling supporting a rancher who protects his livestock by shooting a dog. GAIN maintains that the example should not apply to the Yigo pet killings, and that the ruling ignores numerous stateside legal

precedents in which shooting a pet is considered a felony.

"These weren't mercy killings, or done in self-defense. The killer trespassed onto private property with a gun, and executed Pugua mere feet from a family's front door. The Yigo pet killings were monstrous, unjustifiably cruel acts. It's absurd to claim these shootings weren't 'cruel' simply because these pets may have died quickly," said Luhr.

GAIN asks the Office of the Attorney General to continue pursuing the case. The non-profit animal welfare organization also intends to work

with local policymakers to update the law to prevent similar future rulings.

Pugua's owners, Nathan and Alexie Mapson, continue to feel the loss of their beloved pet. "I miss my fuzzy buddy every day," said Nathan Mapson. "But I think we can use this evil act to change the laws and our attitudes toward the mistreatment of animals."

"Guam has such a loving and welcoming culture that really values family and religion," added Alexie Mapson, "so I don't understand how this violent killing could ever be considered a simple misdemeanor." (PR)

## MITT draft SEIS/OEIS now available for review, comments

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy has prepared a draft supplement to the 2015 final Mariana Islands Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement.

In the draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting ongoing and future military readiness activities within the Study Area at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla.

The Navy requests and welcomes substantive public comments on the MITT draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

### Proposed action

The proposed action is to conduct at-sea training and testing activities within the study area.

These activities include the use of active sonar and explosives while employing marine species mitigation measures. The purpose of the Proposed Action, which remains the same as the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS, is to maintain a ready force to ensure the military can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready forces.

The proposed at-sea training and testing activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS and are similar to activities the military has conducted in the Study Area for decades.

The MITT study area includes:

- The Mariana Islands Range Complex
- Areas on the high seas to

the north and west of the Mariana Islands Range Complex

■ A transit corridor between the Mariana Islands Range Complex and the Hawaii Range Complex, starting at the International Date Line

■ Apra Harbor and select Navy pierside and harbor locations

The study area has not changed since the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS. In the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy analyzes only the training and testing activities conducted at sea and on FDM within the study area. Other activities and land areas are not included and remain covered under the 2015 analysis and associated authorizations.

Please visit the project website at [www.MITT-EIS.com](http://www.MITT-EIS.com) to download the draft Supple-

mental EIS/OEIS and submit substantive comments online.

The Navy is seeking public review and comment on the Proposed Action and alternatives and the accuracy and adequacy of the environmental analysis.

The draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS is available for public review online at [www.MITT-EIS.com](http://www.MITT-EIS.com) and at the following locations:

### GUAM

■ Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library University of Guam, UOG Station, Mangilao, GU 96923

■ Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, 254 Martyr St., Hagåtña, GU 96910

### SAIPAN

■ Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Beach Road and Insatto St., Saipan, MP 96950

### TINIAN

■ Tinian Public Library, San

Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952

### ROTA

■ Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library, Rota, MP 96951

The Navy will accept comments throughout the public comment period, which ends March 18. All comments must be postmarked or received online by March 18, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at [www.MITT-EIS.com](http://www.MITT-EIS.com), at the public meetings, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific

Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager

258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100

Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

## Open house

The Navy will hold two open house public meetings to provide information, answer questions, and give the public an opportunity to comment on the draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The public may arrive at any time between 5pm and 8pm, as there will not be a presentation or formal oral comment session. The meetings will be held at the following locations:

GUAM: Tuesday, Feb. 26, University of Guam, Jesus & Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration building, Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129 and Henry Sy Atrium, Mangilao, Guam 96923

SAIPAN: Wednesday, Feb. 27, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Seaside Hall, Beach Road in Supe. (PR)



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# Temporary fix for flooded vessel in A. Samoa

HONOLULU—Responders have located and addressed the cause of flooding on the 145-foot passenger-ferry *Sili* in Pago Pago, American Samoa, last Sunday.

A salvage dive team located a two-inch diameter hole on the port side of the engine room and applied a temporary patch. The vessel is no longer

taking on water. Any pollution from the incident has been recovered or dissipated. Containment booms will remain in place, and a watchstander will stay on the vessel to monitor the situation. A long-term plan for the ship is in development.

“The safety of residents and responders is our prior-

ity, and while no one wants something like this to happen, thankfully it occurred at the pier where they swiftly addressed the issue,” said Lt. Erica Brewton, Sector Honolulu Incident Management Division. “The application of protective booming and a temporary patch helped protect the environment. We

will continue to work with our Port partners ensuring a full and safe resolution to the incident.”

At 1:30pm, Saturday, Sector Honolulu watchstanders received a report that the vessel *Sili* was taking on water at the main pier in Pago Pago. Marine Safety Division American Samoa personnel

responded alongside local authorities and members of SOLAR, an oil spill response organization. They deployed containment and sorbent booms around the vessel. Local salvage divers were then able to determine the cause of the flooding and patch the hole Sunday.

The vessel will remain

out of service until it is dry-docked and permanent repairs effected. Dry-dock availability is scheduled for the end of March. MSD American Samoa personnel will continue to monitor and advise.

The maximum pollution potential is reportedly 9,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 2,000 gallons of lube oil. There is still no significant effect from the weather at this time. (USCG)

## CAT Palau holds change of charge ceremony

ASAN, Guam—Dignitaries, high chiefs, the Bilung-Gloria Sali of Koror, and dozens of Palauan well-wishers filled the confines of the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center to bid farewell to the U.S. Air Force 36th Civil Engineer Squadron airmen of Civic Action Team Palau 36-03 last Feb. 15.

During the change of charge ceremony, CAT 36-03 was relieved by Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 CAT 133-28.

“The U.S. Embassy is proud to have the CAT team as an integral part of our mission,” said U.S. Ambassador to Palau Amy Hyatt. “They are a wonderful symbol of our country, our people and our values. The important work they do enhances our bilateral relationship and makes vital contributions to the people of Palau.”

During CAT 36-03’s six-

month deployment in Palau, they accomplished many construction feats, but the airmen cherished the relationships they built with the citizens most of all.

“From random barbecues and family-style meals on the beach, to being invited to a neighbor’s very first open house and enjoying the moment with their relatives, you have never failed to make all of us feel like family and that we belong here,” said 2nd Lt. Colin Quitta, CAT 36-03 officer-in-charge.

The airmen completed many more tangible projects as well, including the Palau Visitor’s Authority renovation and the Maris Stella Playground. They also trained 10 apprentices in a variety of trades related to the construction field with two apprentices graduating from the program during the change of charge

ceremony. The CAT medical program completed school screenings at nearly every school in Palau. The airmen of 36-03 didn’t slow down when the construction efforts were done for the day either. They engaged the community with their House of Pain fitness program, basketball tournaments, swim lessons, and a weekly radio show.

“They demonstrate creativity and tenacity every day to overcome challenges and get the job done,” Hyatt said. “It’s that warmth and ‘can-do’ spirit that we celebrate today. America’s greatest strength is not the example of our power but the power of our example.”

The CAT mission carries on the longstanding friendship between the people of Palau and the U.S. military.

“The relationship between our two nations is important



Air Force 2nd Lt. Colin Quitta, Civic Action Team Palau 36-03 officer-in-charge, right, salutes Navy Capt. Steve Stasick, commodore of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment, as he is relieved by Army Capt. Brendan Condrion during a change of charge ceremony, Feb. 15. During the ceremony, U.S. Air Force 36th Civil Engineer Squadron CAT 36-03 was relieved by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 CAT 133-28.

U.S. NAVY/CMS MATTHEW R. WHITE

now more than ever as we work to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific and ensure our economic sea lanes are secure,” said Navy Capt. Steve Stasick, commodore of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment. “Without the support of Palau’s government and local community, we would not

be able to fulfill our promise to protect and safeguard Micronesia, a commitment that was established when the U.S. came ashore on Peleliu during World War II.”

The Seabees of CAT 133-28 are motivated to add their fingerprints to the friendship between the U.S. and Palau.

“The community could not have been more supportive while we were getting our feet under us here in your beautiful country,” said Army Capt. Brendan Condrion, CAT 133-28 officer-in-charge. “I’m looking forward to working hand in hand with all of you as we continue the legacy of over 80 civic action teams before us.”

The Civic Action Team Palau provides construction support to the host nation, assists and trains apprentices with general engineering skills, facilitates a medical outreach program, and conducts community service projects. CAT Palau is an integral part of the U.S. mission to assist and support the development of the Republic of Palau through the Compact of Free Association between the two nations. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the CAT mission in Palau. (PR)



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Free probate workshop

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be hosting a series of probate workshops. These are intended as community legal education to help people in the CNMI understand the probate process. The second workshop will be held Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, at 3pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and will focus on preliminaries before filing probate in court. The workshops are free. Call MLSC at 234-7729 for more information. (PR)

### Open auditions for new FOA production

The Friends of the Arts is scheduling its production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for the early part of May. All persons interested in being a part of this popular Broadway play are invited to an open audition being held this Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2pm on the campus of Marianas High School, Room C203. The play has many parts, including an Adult and Young People’s Chorus.

This is a musical with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The story is based on the “coat of many colors” story of Joseph from the Bible’s Book of Genesis. The play was the first Lloyd Webber and Rice musical to be performed publicly.

The FOA production of the musical is under the musical direction of Katie Hoyt, and the stage direction of Harold Easton.

For further information call 285-1657, or e-mail eastonaa@hotmail.com. Whether an experienced or aspiring actor or actress, come and audition for a role. (PR)

### MIFICPA to host tax seminar

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, invites the public to this year’s tax seminar on March 2, 2019, from 8am to 12pm, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. This year’s seminar will focus on tax updates for 2018/2019, changes in tax laws and tax filing requirements, among others.

The seminar will be conducted by David J. Burger, CPA, the managing partner of Burger, Comer & Magliari.

The registration fee for members is \$25, inclusive of membership fee, snacks and certificate of attendance. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee. Registration starts at 7:30am.

To facilitate the question-and-answer portion of the seminar,

you can pre-register and turn in your question(s) ahead of time through the organizers. For reservation and more details, call or email: Angie Mamaril at 783-1857 (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com); Lois Manese at 286-8663 (eloisa\_manese@yahoo.com); Cris Bucalig at 287-0945 (cris\_bong@yahoo.com); Rose Badidoy at 588 0425 (roseannbadidoy@yahoo.com); Butch Ordas at 789-9276 (butchordas@yahoo.com); Gloria Balila at mgmbalila@yahoo.com; Paul Sanial (paulangelosaniel@yahoo.com); or Yho Villavicencio at 285-9017 (yhobowl300@gmail.com) (PR)

### Beginner ukulele class

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library registration for Beginner Ukulele Class is ongoing at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The age range is children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for 8 class sessions is \$50. Ukulele classes are held at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and children. Session is set to begin on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019, from 4pm to 5pm.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on “first come; first paid.” Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For questions regarding ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Victoria Cabrera at 235-7315 / 7322 during regular library hours.

Class dates are subject to change, unless otherwise specified. Students that have received a ukulele scholarship are able to take advantage of the ukulele class.

For the latest library news and events, visit www.cnmlib.org or like/visit Joeten Kiyu on Facebook.

The library’s regular hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday (10am to 6pm), Saturday (9am to 4pm); Sundays, Mondays, and holidays closed.

Programs and activities are sponsored by the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and are made possible by IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-00-18-0052-18 and IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-01-18-0058-18. (PR)

### Adult/teen/tween JKPL February events

■ Friday, Feb. 22: Do you like dessert? Sign up for our free

Baking Basics, from 3:30pm - 4:30pm! We will learn how to make a delicious treat, and a library card clear of fines is required to participate. Class is geared toward ages 10 and up. Children ages 10-12 must be accompanied by an adult.

■ Saturday, Feb. 23: The Great Stories Club will be meeting on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 12pm to 1pm! We will be going through the book *Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* by Damian Duffy and John Jennings. We are restarting our sign up. If you are interested in reading a great book, receiving free books along with a special prize, sign up at the Reference Desk! Please note the book is now open to grades 6th-12th. (PR)

### Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct trainings at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Feb. 22, from 8am to 7pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

### CHamoru commission meetings

The Kumisión i Fino’ CHamoru yan i Fina’nã’guen i Historia yan i Lina’la’ i Taotao Tãno’ (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold a special meeting on Feb. 21, 2019, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. The meeting will take place in the former Guam Museum building or the Garden House in Hagåtña. Agenda items are approval of Feb. 14, 2019, minutes and discussion of proposed press conference. Work session will follow.

For more information, contact Kumisión chair/Gé’helo’ Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritãria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. (PR)

### Xavier High School entrance exam

Xavier High School in the Federated States of Micronesia will be conducting its entrance exam here on Saipan on Feb. 23, Saturday, at Mt. Carmel School. The exam, open to all seventh and eighth graders, will be held from 8:15am to 11:30am. For more information, call or text Friends of Xavier-CNMI president Ivan A. Blanco at 2858768. (PR)



# US group visits Chuuk for Operation Hailstone anniversary



The U.S. delegation to 75th anniversary commemoration of Operation Hailstone in Chuuk, Micronesia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**CHUUK, Micronesia**—Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, was in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia this week with a high-level U.S. delegation from Washington, D.C. and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to take part in commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Hailstone, which took place during World War II in the Pacific.

The U.S. delegation had the opportunity to meet with FSM government leadership where they discussed issues of mutual interest. They also met Chuuk state leadership and visited the Chuuk Public Utility Corp., where a wastewater treatment plant was recently overhauled with funds

provided through the Compact of Free Association.

The 75th anniversary of Operation Hailstone commemorates a massive U.S.

military strike on Japanese naval forces in Truk following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Beginning on Feb. 17 and 18, 1944, the bombard-

ment of Operation Hailstone played an important part in changing the tide during the World War II battle in the Pacific. Numerous wrecks remain from that important battle and are part of the world renowned wreck-diving site in Chuuk, formerly known as Truk lagoon.

“The Department of the Interior has a long and cherished history with the Federated State of Micronesia,”



U.S. and Federated States of Micronesia delegations met over breakfast in Chuuk, Micronesia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

said Domenech. “Through our relationship under the Compact of Free Association, together we have improved and built schools, hospitals, utilities and other projects throughout the FSM that directly benefit the people of the FSM. We are proud of that legacy. We continue to collaborate as partners in the US-FSM Joint Economic Management Committee and will continue to carefully consider future needs as we jointly manage the Compact Trust Fund together.”

The principals of the U.S. delegation traveling to Micronesia—Domenech, Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., U.S.

Air Force, commander, Pacific Air Forces; Indo-Pacific Air Command; Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District; Nick Dean, director, East Asia Pacific Bureau, State Department; Alexander Gray, director for Oceania, National Security Council; and Nikolao Pula, director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior—were led in the FSM by U.S. chargé d'affaires Heather Coble.

The delegation will also visit the Republic of Palau and Kwajalein in the Republic of the Marshall Islands on this trip. (PR)



Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. and Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech laid wreaths in the Chuuk Lagoon to commemorate 75th anniversary of Operation Hailstone.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

### AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY**
  - a.) Call to Order
  - b.) Roll Call
  - c.) Adoption of Agenda
  - d.) Adoption of Minutes

1) January 25, 2019 (rescheduled to January 29, 2019)  
Regular Meeting
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **REPORTS**
  - a.) Chair's Report
  - b.) Executive Director's Report
- IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- V. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a.) Professional Services Contract  
Oliver M. Manglona, Attorney at Law
- VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
- VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

\*Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.  
\*Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

## PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ/DCRM-056

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 20, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

### “TALAKHAYA WATERSHED REVEGETATION PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**ALL** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO **MS. JANICE CASTRO** BY EMAIL AT [jcastro@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:jcastro@dcrm.gov.mp), **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS MARCH 08, 2019**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **ELI D. CABRERA**  
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ **JOSEPH A. TUDELA**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-008

#### SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

**One (1) original and four (4) hard copies**, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-19-008 -Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 4, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contract Specialist via email address [john.mafnas@cucgov.org](mailto:john.mafnas@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator



# Opinion

## *Hafa Adair* Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Aurora's mass shooting: More families join 'a group that should not exist yet continues to grow'

**A**nd now, an Illinois addition to the list of mass shootings that agonize all Americans on somber anniversaries—and that agonize survivors and the families of victims every day of the year. This week already had delivered anniversaries of the Northern Illinois University shooting in 2008, and the Parkland, Fla., high school shooting in 2018. Friday's bloodshed was at the Henry Pratt Co., a valve manufacturing firm in the western Chicago suburb of Aurora. The casualty count that authorities disclosed Friday evening—six civilians killed including the gunman, five police officers wounded by gunfire—adds still more families to what Gov. J.B. Pritzker termed “a group that should not exist yet continues to grow.”

What might the death toll have been if police hadn't responded within four minutes to 911 calls and hustled into the 29,000-square-foot facility? Unknown, thankfully. We'll echo Aurora police Chief Kristen Ziman's public message to her officers: “Thank you for running toward gunfire.”

Bob Gonzalez, a local school board president who runs an insurance office out of his house next to the site of Friday's shooting, said he was deeply unnerved by the incident and already rethinking safety protocols: “It just makes me wonder, here, the door to my office is always unlocked, I see my clients come in, I know my clients, but it makes me wonder whether now I should have some kind lock that I can lock from the inside and keep my door locked at all times. It's very scary.”

The damage these mass shootings cause, beyond the carnage and casualty tolls, is incalculable. They occur so frequently that we Americans have factored them into our culture. In everyday life we now acknowledge a risk, an expectation even, that at any moment gunfire may shatter normality. Schools, churches and offices all might be targeted, so every well-prepared student, congregant or worker cases buildings for escape routes and hiding places. Safety drills must be scheduled. Children must be introduced to the idea of facing gunfire so they know what to do if it happens.

Like the school shootings that began with Laurie Dann's assault on a Winnetka elementary school in 1988, the workplace shooting is a recognizable phenomenon here. Among the most notorious: Many Chicagoans still live with the horrors imposed by William Baker, who killed four co-workers and himself at a Navistar International factory in Melrose Park in 2001. And the comparable horrors imposed by Salvador Tapia, who killed six former co-workers at a South Side auto parts warehouse before being shot by police in 2003.

And now Aurora. Early speculation about a motive centered on a workplace issue, but we can't know whether the catalyst was one person's despair or self-pity or aggression or ... something else. This killer takes the demented logic of his plot with him to the grave. We profoundly wish he had not taken innocents with him.

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## What North Korea could learn from Vietnam

**V**ietnam is more than a convenient neutral site for the second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, which is slated for later this month. The Southeast Asian nation is being held up as a model for what Kim's isolated country could become if he adopts sweeping market reforms. It's an especially apt comparison, one which Kim himself reportedly noted last year—but not necessarily for the reasons you might think.

The choice facing Kim at the Hanoi summit is the same as it's always been: weapons or wealth. The U.S. has long offered North Korea a chance to develop its moribund economy in exchange for abandoning its nuclear program. Trump is so confident Kim will finally accept that he recently tweeted “North Korea will become a kind of Rocket—an Economic one!”

Like his father and predecessor, though, Kim has so far left the deal on the table. Clearly he's worried about losing his iron grip on the country if it opens up to the outside world. Moreover, it's not entirely clear that the model of export-driven growth that Vietnam and other Asian tiger economies followed can work for the North, given the current rollback of free trade.

Vietnam's experience, even more so than the famous example of China's “reform and opening up,” would address both these concerns. Like China and fellow tigers Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and South Korea, Vietnam has posted an impressive record of growth since launching its “doi moi” reforms in the 1980s, lifting national income per capita from less than \$95 in 1990 to \$2,342 in 2017. Like China and Singapore, it's managed to do so while maintaining firm one-party control over the political system and avoiding political and social unrest.

Uniquely, though, Vietnam could also show Kim how opening up could actually bolster his regime's strength. At the moment North Korea, shunned by much of the world, is almost entirely dependent on its gargantuan neighbor and ally, China. Vietnam has been able to translate reform into strategic independence by balancing improved ties to the U.S. against China's unavoidable economic influence. More of its exports go to the U.S. than China, while Japan, South Korea and Germany are also important customers. That's allowed Vietnam some room to push back against China, for instance, on its incursions into the South China Sea.

Even more, Vietnam proves that the old Asian development model can still work. The country has skillfully enlarged its role in the global economy even as globalization has retreated. Exports expanded to more than 100 percent of national output in 2017 from about 70 percent a decade earlier. The secret has been an aggressive pro-trade policy that's propelled Vietnam into numerous free-trade agreements, including the revamped Trans-Pacific Partnership. That, combined with an improving business environment and low costs, has made Vietnam a sound alternative to China for labor-intensive manufacturing, such as apparel and mobile phones.

By **MICHAEL SCHUMAN**

Bloomberg News

*Michael Schuman, who is based in Beijing, is the author of “The Miracle: The Epic Story of Asia's Quest for Wealth” and “Confucius and the World He Created.”*



A low-wage North Korea could readily achieve the same. It might even have an edge over Vietnam in attracting such factories, given that its neighbors China, Japan and South Korea share a keen interest in ensuring Kim's reforms work.

Most of all, Vietnam highlights the true lesson of Asia's record of modernization: Any poor economy, no matter what its history and cultural background, can alleviate poverty and industrialize with the right mix of policies. Looking back at the assorted tiger economies, they had little in common. Vietnam was a Communist country only recently free of war; Singapore a tiny trading entrepot; South Korea a rump of a former monarchy; Indonesia a mish-mash of disparate tropical islands. Nevertheless, all achieved spectacular rates of growth over extended periods of time by capitalizing on their comparative advantages in the global trading system and promoting private enterprise.

That doesn't mean they all copied the same development strategy. Each country adapted the basic principles to its own particular characteristics and conditions. Vietnam had to transition from a planned to a market economy; South Korea counted on heavy dose of state guidance; the colonial administration in Hong Kong did little beyond stay out of the way.

North Korea will have to find its own route, too, based on its own (and often bizarre) history. For instance, North Korea has been far more isolated for far longer than Vietnam was prior to its “doi moi” reforms, which could make integrating into the world economy more difficult. Kim would also have to overcome his country's contentious record with foreign companies, especially after freezing the assets of those operating in the Kaesong Industrial Complex in 2016.

The most critical challenge, of course, is getting sanctions lifted. Without that, any hope of following Vietnam is a fantasy. Kim needs to make a calculation that development is more important than maintaining a nuclear deterrent. Scholar John DeLury believes he wishes to be his country's Deng Xiaoping—the strongman who unleashed an economic miracle. Others proffer evidence that Kim has already overseen a sizable shift towards a more free-market economy (even if not officially acknowledged). But he has yet to make a decisive break favoring butter over guns. We'll see if Vietnam changes his mind.



## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Maribahan Fondu

**G**uaha otden malagnus na umaribaha todū gastun gobietnu dies pot sientu pot a'anog na menus i rinikohen aduana (tax) pa'gu na sakan.

Gi primet kuattru mesis tinahuñg \$7 miyon pesus. Poresu i otden na ensegidas u guaha rinibaha! Seriosu na asuntu ni debi umaguatdia diariu.

Dos pagyu yan hiniyuñg inbetsionistan (investors) Japon muna' fan galileg hit 'nai maribaha i fondu \$14 biyon. Mampus didog na maribaha fondo-ta na biahe.

Kau u bira siha tatte Japonese? Dañkulu na dinida pot esta ha kaikai' siha. Inipus na dañu hiniyuñg niha kontra ekonomian tano'ta. Haf' na ha disidi humanau ginen Marianas?

Ni achog kuantu na ayudu una' halum i Chinu ti parehu na fuetsan fiñkas pot rason na iya Japon i riku yan mikepbli na nasyon. Mipoblema i Chinu! Miyon pot miyon na tautauña debi una' fañochu diariu.

Dispues deste antes de gera estaba esta i Japonese guine ya ha tuñgu' haf' kustumbren i tanu'. Dehemunos-gue' i Chinu yan taya'ña! Ti parehu mangasta yan Japonese. 'An mattu kumu bisita pues mamahan un' paketen soba' ya hana'ye hanum maibe gi hotel. I Japonese humuyufg ya mangasta gi resturan siha guine. Mauleg ha kantida kada bisita ha yute' diariu.

Puede guaha sattun na inadaha gi haf' tetehnan para edukasion yan hinemlu' tautau siha. Makat na kontrariu maribahan fondu gi kahan publiku.

■ ■ ■

**Ina' ayuda:** I sensian ina'ayuda gi halum tautau-ta i mas amtau yan ma'ug na kustumbren natibu. Finañagun naturat giya hita pot manginen dikiki' hit na islas. Todū kinalamten manarikonose hit pot aseguridad unu yan otu.

Dumaña' kustumbren tanu' yan kutturan relihion 'nai mas masimientu este na tradision. Namagof i sensian gineftau piot ayudu gi man-namase' siha na tautau-ta. Ni unu sumeha manayuda!

Pinadesen chinatsaga ni unu soplu. Todū man-pinalala'e gi

halum animu na pinetsige para ta adelanta ha'anita. Pot man-tautau hit na guaha pinadese. Namagof na kutturan tanu' i ina'ayuda piot gi tiempun eskases yan ha'ilas. Mit gracias para todū i sensian gineftau.

■ ■ ■

**Inatotpe:** Nuebu 'nai kahulu' inatisen kuttura na kulan manatotpe hit gi un' katsada 'nai todū man-e'esalau pot tradision tanu'. Dios mihu! Deste fina deni', mañahag, titiyas, kantan Chamorro, gualu', peska, yan otu siha asuntu.

Todū este man-gaige gi papa' payun kuttura. Haf' kinem-prende-mu kutturan natibu? Siña un esplika para benefisiun todū? Muñga masa' guine na asuntu sa' homlu' dinaña' tautau-ta gi dineskuten haf' sustansia-ta.

Inadiñgan entalu' natibu homlu' na eksisiu gi manafitmen inakomprende, inafamauleg yan inagofli'e gi entalu' todū. Ti manadan birada gi maseha haf' na kinalamten siempre mapresenta siha para u fañanau man-manayuda.

Lau hafa kutturan natibu fuera de kelaguen tiau yah kachu ni tinatitiye sitbesa ni sumen maneñgheñg? Mauleg ta ketuñgu' pot futuna-ta kumu tautau tanu'.

■ ■ ■

**Champada:** Gi 1976 estabayu' LA gi inetnun Chamorro gi fina' park. Dispues de felisitasion umekuñgug ñaihon-yu' konbetsasion gi oriya.

Estaba dos palao'an kumekuentus pot asut na sagan apun chupa (ash tray) yan manu na tenda 'nai mabebendi.

Era hinatme i dos sensian champada 'nai debi u parehu gai iyu maseha haf' kontodu sagan apun chupa. Ti un' hoñge na ni unu gi dos chichipa? Dios tiampare!

■ ■ ■

**Palabra:** Ilegna un' kakanta, "Ta adora nina'en tata kumu monumentu para hita". Ilegu na i propiu palabra "agradesimientu" pot regalu ginen i amku'. Si Yuus solu ma-adodora, taya' otu!

Kase ti mahasñgun pot ansianu na ekspressiu. Si Yuus solu ma-adodora!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

I otu ilegña gi halum konbetsasion, "Kumulelegmu?" I propiu, "kumeke ilegmu". Mauleg tana' fan dinanche palabra siha kosake famaguon-ta matuñgu' i dinanche na finu' Chamorro!

■ ■ ■

**Respetu:** 'Nai ha ayau-yu' un' kiñaduhu \$750 ti hu diteni pot hu tuñgu' na mangai tanu' ni para uma-atkila. Kase ha lachai todū hombre sen tihanana' lu kuentaña giya guahu.

Dos años dispues, umasoda' ham ya ayu ilegña, "Hu gef respetu hau na kiñaduhu". Sais mesis dispues dimalas i kiñaduhu. 'Nai hu dispedi hu ñañgun na guahu lokue' hu gef "respetugue". Ai, tatnai mauleg este listu man-ayuda ya ma-apasen "hu gef respetu hau!"

■ ■ ■

**Simienteyu:** Giya Cambodia i tautau siha ni taya' tanu' niha mafa' soñgsuñg i halum simienteyu. Namanman pot dañkulu na tanu' iya Cambodia. Kase magagau i animas siha dispensu antes de u fañaga gi entalu' naftan. Dios mihu!

■ ■ ■

**Chaleg:** Duru un' ocheta años na biha chumaleg na esta tutu' lago'ña. Dispues ilegña na ha siente ha' milag lagoña gi entalu' dos petnaña. Dios mihu!

## America, the kidnapper: 'Likely thousands' of children still separated

America is a kidnapper.

It became one in late 2017 and early 2018, when the government began quietly separating families—asylum seekers and migrants who entered the country illegally—at our southern border, a test run for a soon-to-be-open policy of taking children from their parents.

Our country became a kidnapper in plain sight last April, when then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy at the border, breaking up families at such a pace that children pulled from the arms of their mothers and fathers were dispersed to refugee sites across the country with no consistent tracking process in place.

And America remains a kidnapper today, because children are still being separated at the border for specious reasons and, according to a federal report and recent testimony before Congress, there may be thousands of additional children we didn't know were separated, children the government says it now lacks the resources to find.

Ann Maxwell, assistant inspector general at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, testified last week before a U.S. House subcommittee on oversight and investigations: "In conclusion, the total number of children separated from a parent or guardian by U.S. immigration authorities and transferred to HHS for care is not known."

She said it is "likely thousands more."

Consider that for a moment: The total number of children, possibly thousands, that our government willfully took from their parents as part of a cruel and clumsy experiment in deterrence is not known.

This story began, in large part, with a little girl who was taken from her mother and shipped halfway across the country to a facility here in Chicago. It has been almost a year since I first wrote about that little girl, and the fact that we're still talking about children our government unfairly ripped from their parents is unconscionable.

That girl and her mother were separated for months, even though the mother, identified only as Ms. L., had followed all of the laws laid out for asylum seekers. The pair were reunited here fairly quickly after their story was revealed and a lawsuit was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

That lawsuit grew into a class action and a judge issued a June 26 court order halting the Trump administration's family separa-

tion policy and giving the government 30 days to find the more than 2,600 children being held across the country under the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and reunite them with their parents.

When the government missed that deadline, U.S. District Judge Dana M. Sabraw said: "What was lost in the process was the family. The parents didn't know where the children were, and the children didn't know where the parents were. And the government didn't know either."

It was a pathetic mess, the result of a draconian policy implemented with no advance planning. The various agencies responsible for these children didn't have a consistent means of tracking them or their parents. It was slapdash and intentionally brutal.

It took months for most of those children to be reunited with their families. But in January, we learned of an entirely different set of children lost in the chaos.

In the months before an official zero-tolerance policy was announced and in the months that following its announcement, there were children separated from their parents at the border, taken into government custody and then released to the care of a relative in the United States.

According to an HHS Office of Inspector General report issued in January, "officials estimate that thousands of separated children entered ORR care and were released prior to the June 26, 2018, court order. Because the tracking systems in use at that time were informal and designed for operational purposes rather than retrospective reporting, ORR was unable to provide a more precise estimate or specific information about these children's placements (for example, whether the children were released to sponsors who were relatives, sponsors who were nonrelatives, foster care, etc.)."

The court order in the Ms. L. case involves children who were in government custody when the order was issued. Attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union assumed, logically, that all children separated from their families due to the zero-tolerance policy were part of the lawsuit's class. That makes sense, given that Ms. L. and her daughter—the family at the center of the case—were reunited well before the court order was filed.

But the government doesn't see it that way, arguing that the newly identified children are not part of the Ms. L. class and claiming it would be too much work to find them all anyway.

By REX HUPPKE

Chicago Tribune



*Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

To summarize, our government tore thousands of children away from their parents causing untold trauma, then dragged its feet mightily in reuniting those children with their families. Now we learn there may be thousands of additional children who were placed with U.S. relatives (not their parents), and the government has no plan to reconnect those children with their parents or even consult the parents to see if the current guardianship is acceptable.

These kids weren't put up for adoption or handed over willingly to U.S. officials in the hope they would get placed with a distant relative. They were taken from their parents—period.

Now government officials are claiming they lack the resources to find these kids. They even have the gall to suggest that uprooting the children from their current guardianship would be too traumatic, after showing no such concern for the children's well-being when they yanked them away from their parents in the first place.






"The point is, we need to have the information so we can find out from the parent or child what they want to do," said Lee Gelert, deputy director of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project and a lead attorney on the Ms. L. case. "I think the government doesn't want to do that or they've candidly admitted they don't think it's worth the resources. It's always worth the resources when it's kids' lives at stake."

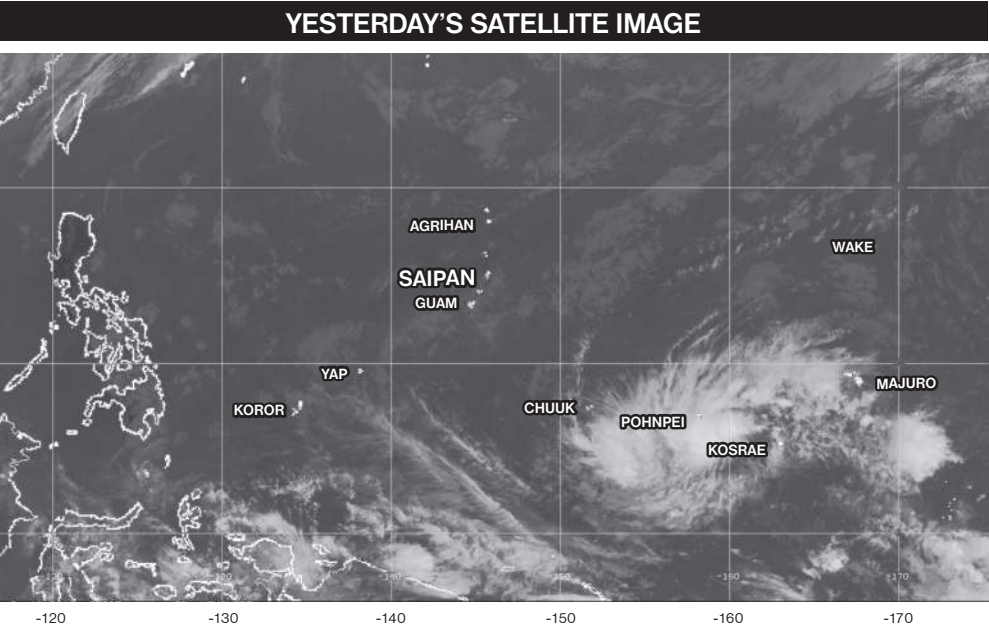
We are a powerful and wealthy nation. We certainly have the ability and the resources to account for every child we forcibly orphaned. We should, if we still possess even a sliver of compassion, fully clean up this inhumane mess and recognize the stain it will leave on our history.

Until we do that, we're nothing but kidnappers.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.		Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.		Windy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Windy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Damaging winds possible. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
87°	75°	86°	75°	87°	76°	86°	75°	86°	75°



**PICTURE TIME: 7:45 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. Satellite and radar imagery show only a few clouds and showers over the local area. Relatively dry weather will prevail through mid-week as model 700 mb relative humidity will be well below 50 percent until Friday. A circulation south of Kosrae this morning will move towards the Marianas. It is predicted to be near the local area by next weekend which will increase the chances for showers and thunderstorms. Little change in wind speed expected for until next week as they will range between 15 to 25 mph. These winds are the result the pressure gradient between high pressure to the north of the Marianas and lower pressure to the south. The circulation mentioned above will deepen the pressure gradient and so even windier conditions are expected this coming weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 76°	
Palau	Showers	83° / 76°	
Yap	Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	73° / 68°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	54° / 27°	
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 69°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	81° / 66°	
London	Cloudy	55° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	58° / 45°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 72°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°	
New York	Snow Shower	34° / 32°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	54° / 41°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 41°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	69° / 63°	
San Francisco	Windy	53° / 42°	
Seoul	Sunny	46° / 21°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 43°	
Washington, DC	Mixed	36° / 35°	

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:08 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.59	
8:51 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.10	
2:35 PM	LOW TIDE	0.86	
7:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.15	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:00 AM	7:03 PM
Thursday	-	7:51 AM	8:05 PM
Friday	-	8:39 AM	9:04 PM
Saturday	-	9:25 AM	10:01 PM
Sunday	-	10:09 AM	10:57 PM

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
				UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



Business

China accuses US of trying to block its tech development

**BEIJING** (AP)—China’s government on Monday accused the United States of trying to block the country’s industrial development by alleging that Chinese mobile network gear poses a cybersecurity threat to countries rolling out new internet systems.

And in a potential blow to the U.S.’s effort to rally its allies on the issue, British media reported that U.K. intelligence agencies found it’s possible to limit the security risks of using Chinese equipment in so-called 5G networks.

The U.S. argues that Beijing might use Chinese tech companies to gather intelligence about foreign countries. The Trump administration has pressured allies to shun networks supplied by Huawei Technologies, threatening the company’s access to markets for next-generation wireless gear.

“Huawei, the biggest global maker of switching gear for phone and internet companies, denies accusations it facilitates Chinese spying and said it would reject any government demands to disclose confidential information about foreign customers.

The U.S. government is trying to “fabricate an excuse for suppressing the legitimate development” of Chinese enterprises, said the spokesman for the Chinese foreign ministry, Geng Shuang. He accused the United States of using “political means” to interfere in economic activity, “which is hypocritical, immoral and unfair bullying.”

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, speaking last weekend in Germany, urged European allies to take seriously “the threat” he said was posed by Huawei as they look for partners to build the new 5G mobile networks.

The 5G technology is meant to vastly expand the reach of networks to support internet-linked medical equipment, factory machines, self-driving cars and other devices. That



AP  
In this Dec. 11, 2018, file photo, a woman browses her smartphone as she walks by a Huawei store at a shopping mall in Beijing.

quire companies to cooperate with intelligence agencies. No country in Europe, however, has issued a blanket veto on using Huawei technology in the way the U.S. has urged.

The U.S. Justice Department last month unsealed charges against Huawei, its chief financial officer—who had been arrested in Canada—and several of the companies’ subsidiaries, alleging not only violation of trade sanctions but also the theft of trade secrets.

The United States has not, however, released evidence to support its accusations that Huawei and other Chinese tech companies allow the Chinese government to spy through their systems. That has prompted some industry analysts to suggest Washington is trying to use security concerns to handicap Chinese competitors.

“China has not and will not require companies or individuals to collect or provide foreign countries’ information for the Chinese government by installing backdoors or other actions that violate local laws,” said Geng.

EU warns of reduced imports if Trump puts tariffs on cars

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—The European Union warned U.S. President Donald Trump Monday that the bloc will step back from a commitment to buy more American soybeans and liquid gas if European cars are hit with punitive tariffs.

The U.S. Commerce Department is expected issue its guidance on whether auto imports endanger U.S. national security enough to justify import taxes, giving Trump 90 days to decide whether to impose them.

EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said that during a summit in Washington last summer, Trump promised not to damage trans-Atlantic trade with such measures.

“Trump has given me his word that there will be no car tariffs for the time being,” Juncker told the German newspaper Stuttgarter Zeitung.

“I believe him,” Juncker said. “However, should he renege on that commitment, we will no longer feel bound by our commitments to buy more U.S. soya and liquid gas.”

European Union spokesman Margaritis Schinas said that if the U.S. goes ahead with “actions detrimental to European exports, the European Commission would react in a swift and adequate manner.”

The EU and the United States have been trying to work out a trade deal but progress has been slow.

Over the weekend, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said U.S. authorities appeared to have already concluded that European cars were a national security threat.

She noted that German automaker BMW’s biggest plant is in South Carolina. Merkel said if the cars produced there “are suddenly a threat to the United States’ national security, that startles us.”

Since the summer summit, when Juncker made a commitment to buy more U.S. soybeans, exports to Europe have soared largely because of market conditions. Last month, the EU also approved the use of U.S. soybeans for the production of biofuels, which would further boost imports.

makes it more politically sensitive and raises the potential cost of security failures.

Pence said Huawei and other Chinese telecom equipment makers provide Beijing with “access to any data that touches their network or equipment.” He appealed to European governments to “reject any enterprise that would compromise the integrity of our communications technology or our national security systems.”

In what could amount to a turning point for the U.S. effort to isolate Huawei, Britain’s National Cyber Security Centre has found that the risk of using its networks is manageable, according to the Financial Times and several other British media outlets.

The reports cited anonymous sources as saying that there are ways to limit cybersecurity risks, and that the U.K.’s decision would carry weight with European allies who are also evaluating the safety of their networks.

The British government is to finish a review of its policies on the safety of 5G in March or April. The office of British Prime Minister Theresa May said Monday that “no

decisions have been taken.”

If eventually confirmed, “such a decision by the U.K. would be a strong message and could be influential in the medium term,” said Lukasz Olejnik, a research associate at Oxford University’s Center for Technology and Global Affairs.

The British review “could inevitably serve as an input or a reference point in other countries’ risk assessments,” he added.

European officials, including a vice president of the European Union, have expressed concern about Chinese regulations issued last year that re-

Louisiana flood victims still waiting for federal aid change

**BATON ROUGE, La.** (AP)—The month-long partial federal government shutdown likely further delayed aid grants to homeowners still trying to recover from the 2016 flooding, Louisiana’s top disaster recovery official said.

As many as 6,000 Louisiana residents who took out loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration after the March and August 2016 floods have been waiting to see if federal rules might change so they could access Restore Louisiana recovery grants.

Congress changed the law in October to allow SBA loan applicants to not have those count against the federally financed grants. But The Advocate reports state officials are waiting for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to issue

new legal guidance.

Pat Forbes, the leader of Louisiana’s flood recovery effort, said HUD guidance that was expected in March could be delayed another month due to the shutdown.

“The 35 days of shutdown probably adds at least 35 days to that timeline because those were days people were going to be writing this guidance,” Forbes, director of the Louisiana Office of Community Development, told the Restore Louisiana Task Force on Friday.

HUD spokesman Brian Sullivan said the agency, which saw 97 percent of its workforce furloughed during the shutdown, still hopes to issue its new SBA loan rules done within the first quarter of the year. He said the agency has been “gigantically busy”

working on recovery plans for other recent disasters.

Sullivan said he couldn’t comment on whether HUD will give Louisiana the go-ahead to cut checks to pay off SBA disaster loans. But the spokesman did note that Congress’ law change, which was written by Republican U.S. Rep. Garret Graves, “says SBA loans can never be considered a duplication of benefits.”

Graves said the law change is clear. He said the holdup is the frustrating result of a slow-moving bureaucracy that’s kept affected Louisiana homeowners in limbo too long. He said he was scheduled to speak Monday with HUD Secretary Ben Carson about the issue.

“I’ve spoken to attorneys from four different federal agencies that are all involved in this debacle that all agree the law fixes this problem,” Graves said.

Republican U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy said in a statement that “regardless of the shutdown, HUD’s delay is simply unacceptable.”

Though the SBA issue remains outstanding, Restore Louisiana has otherwise nearly completed its homeowner grant-making process related to the 2016 floods. About 16,000 people have been offered \$561 million in assistance.

Forbes said the state is holding enough money in its homeowner assistance program to accommodate a reading of the federal law that would allow the state to distribute the maximum amount of money to SBA loan holders, about \$225 million.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

25,883.25

+339.98

+1.33%

S&P

2,775.60

+29.87

+1.09%

NASDAQ

7,472.41

+45.46

+0.61%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.8477	Russian Ruble	66.2000
Australian Dollar	1.4060	Singapore Dollar	1.3574
British Pound	1.0000	Japanese Yen	110.6470
Canadian Dollar	1.3261	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0428
Chinese Yuan	6.6573	New Zealand Dollar	1.4632
Euro	0.8848	Philippine Peso	51.3282
		Taiwan Dollar	30.3183
		Thailand Baht	31.1975



# Nation

## 16 states sue Trump over emergency wall declaration

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—California and 15 other states filed a lawsuit Monday against President Donald Trump's emergency declaration to fund a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra released a statement Monday saying the suit alleges the Trump administration's action violates the Constitution.

"President Trump treats the rule of law with utter contempt," Becerra said. "He knows there is no border crisis, he knows his emergency declaration is unwarranted, and he admits that he will likely lose this case in court."

Joining California in filing the lawsuit are the attorneys general of Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Virginia. All the states involved in the lawsuit have Democratic attorneys general.

Trump declared a national emergency to fulfill his promise of completing the wall.

The move allows the president to bypass Congress to use money from the Pentagon and other budgets.

The states say diversion of military funding to wall-building will hurt their economies



In this Dec. 21, 2018, file photo, a Honduran youth jumps from the U.S. border fence in Tijuana, Mexico. California's attorney general filed a lawsuit Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, against President Donald Trump's emergency declaration to fund a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

and deprive their military bases of needed upgrades. They say taking away funds from counter-drug efforts for the wall will also cause damage. California and New Mexico, the two Mexican border states in the lawsuit, say the wall will harm wildlife.

California has repeatedly

challenged Trump in court.

"President Trump is manufacturing a crisis and declaring a made-up 'national emergency' in order to seize power and undermine the Constitution," said California Gov. Gavin Newsom in a statement. "This 'emergency' is a national disgrace."

## W.Va. teachers' unions call for strike over education bill

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** (AP)—West Virginia teachers' unions on Monday called a statewide strike over an education bill that they view as lacking their input and as retaliation for a walkout last year.

The strike is scheduled to start Tuesday, leaders of three unions for teachers and school service workers said at a news conference, almost a year to the day after teachers started a nine-day walkout.

"We are left with no other choice," said Fred Albert, president of the American Federation of Teachers' West Virginia chapter.

The 2018 walkout launched the national "Red4Ed" movement that included strikes in Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arizona, Washington state, and more recently, Los Angeles and Denver. Teachers in Oakland, California, have authorized a strike starting Thursday.

Now the movement has come full circle.

Both the state Senate and House of Delegates have approved separate and far different versions of the complex bill, but both call for creating

the state's first charter schools. The unions believe charter schools will erode traditional public schools.

After the strike call, the Senate passed an amendment to its bill 18-16 Monday night. The unions have said lawmakers never asked for their insight into what has become a rushed process in the Senate.

West Virginia Education Association President Dale Lee said that upon watching the Senate's actions, "it appears that they are more interested in listening to the outside interests than they are the educators across West Virginia."

"We will work as closely as we can to get a resolution, but at this point, there doesn't seem to be a resolution."

Earlier Monday, Sen. Patricia Rucker, a Jefferson County Republican, moved to adopt the Senate's amended version before senators even had a chance to read changes to the bill, prompting Democrats to protest. The Senate later adjourned for more than an hour to enable senators to catch up.

"Why are we pushing it through with about 10 min-

utes of advance notice?" said Michael Romano, a Harrison County Democrat. "Here we are with no time to digest it."

Among other things, the Senate version would allow for up to seven charter schools statewide and provide for up to 1,000 education savings accounts for parents to pay for private school. The accounts would be for special needs students and those who have been bullied.

Proponents say the moves would give parents more school choices. Charter school laws have been enacted in 43 states and Washington, D.C.

The House version does not call for such savings accounts and would limit charter schools to one each in Cabell and Kanawha counties.

Like the House, the Senate has removed a clause that would invalidate the entire legislation if any part is struck down. It also removed language requiring teacher pay to be withheld during a strike as long as the school calendar is unaffected.

"We are watching this hour by hour," Albert said.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Aurora warehouse where 5 killed won't reopen until next week

**AURORA, Ill.** (AP)—The suburban Chicago manufacturing warehouse where five people were fatally shot won't reopen until next week, but its doors will be open to support workers, company officials said Monday. The Henry Pratt Co. facility in Aurora, Illinois, will be open any employees who want to spend time with colleagues and counselors will be available, spokeswoman Yolanda Kokayi said. She said the warehouse tentatively won't return to full production until Feb. 25. A Henry Pratt employee who was about to lose his job opened fire at the warehouse Friday, killing five co-workers and wounding five police officers. The gunman died in a shootout with police. "The lives lost were not only our employees, but also fathers, husbands, grandfathers, brothers, sons and our friends," Kokayi said in an emailed statement Monday. "Their loss has left a huge void in us all."

### Police: Man accused of kidnapping his son found in Mexico

**BOSTON** (AP)—Police in Massachusetts say a man accused of kidnapping his 1-year-old son has been located in Mexico. Lowell Police said Monday that 37-year-old Fillemom De Lima, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, is being

held by Mexican authorities at an immigration detention center. De Lima and his son were last seen on Jan. 9. Lowell Police and the FBI traced him to Mexico City. The boy was reunited with his mother, Mahalia Alexander-Paggi, Sunday night at Logan International Airport in Boston. It's unclear whether De Lima is represented by an attorney who could comment on his behalf. Police say if he made it to Brazil, as police believe he intended to, they may not have been able to reunite the boy with his mother. Several federal agencies helped with the investigation.

### 3 children among 4 found dead after west Michigan shooting

**SOLOMON TOWNSHIP, Mich.** (AP)—Authorities say three children and a woman were found dead of apparent gunshot wounds at a home in western Michigan. Kent County Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young says authorities responded Monday to a property near Cedar Springs, a community about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Grand Rapids. She says someone discovered the bodies and called 911. LaJoye-Young said the three children were elementary school-aged and younger but declined to provide further information about the victims' relationships to one another. She said authorities were still confirm-

ing the victims' identities. LaJoye-Young called the scene "a horrific thing to be called to" and said "my heart goes out to the families involved here and the community." Authorities don't believe there is a shooter at large. An investigation is ongoing.

### Man with banner scales crane before Trump speech in Florida

**SWEETWATER, Fla.** (AP)—A man with a banner and an American flag climbed a construction crane near a Florida campus where President Donald Trump came to speak Monday about the political turmoil in Venezuela.

The man spent about two hours atop the crane at the edge of Florida International University's campus in the Miami suburb of Sweetwater.

Sweetwater Police Chief Placido Diaz said the man forced his way onto the construction site and scaled the crane to make a political statement. He faces multiple charges, including trespassing.

WPLG-TV reports the man's banner read, "'Mr. Presidente, Please have mercy for E. Arocena.'" The words "Cuban exile" were written at the top of the banner.

Eduardo Arocena was an anti-Castro activist sentenced in 1984 to life in prison plus 35 years for the murder of a Cuban diplomat and other bomb and weapons-related charges.



## Asia

# PH: 136 have died in measles outbreak

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine health secretary said Monday that 136 people, mostly children, have died of measles and 8,400 others have fallen ill in an outbreak blamed partly on vaccination fears.

A massive immunization drive that started last week in hard-hit Manila and four provincial regions may contain the outbreak by April, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said. President Rodrigo Duterte warned in a TV message Friday of fatal complications and urged children to be immunized.

"No ifs, no buts, no conditions, you just have to bring your children and trust that the vaccines ... will save your children," Duque said by telephone. "That's the absolute answer to this outbreak."

Infections spiked by more than 1,000 percent in metropolitan Manila, the densely packed capital of more than 12 million people, in January compared to last year, health officials said.

About half of the 136 who died were children aged 1 to 4 and many of those who perished were not inoculated, the officials said.

Duque said a government information drive was help-



In this Friday, Sept. 12, 2014, file photo, a local health worker administers a vaccine to a baby at a local health center at the financial district of Makati, east of Manila, Philippines.

ing restore public trust in the government's immunization program, which was marred in 2017 by controversy over an anti-dengue vaccine made by French drugmaker Sanofi Pasteur which some officials linked to the deaths of at least three children.

The Philippine government halted the anti-dengue immunization drive after Sanofi said a study showed the vaccine may increase the risks of severe dengue infections. More than 830,000 children were injected with the Dengvaxia vaccine under the campaign, which was launched in 2016

under then-President Benigno Aquino III. The campaign continued under Duterte until it was stopped in 2017.

Sanofi officials told Philippine congressional hearings that the Dengvaxia vaccine was safe and effective and would reduce dengue infections if the vaccination drive continued.

"It seems the faith has come back," Duque said of public trust on the government's immunization drive, citing the inoculation of about 130,000 of 450,000 people targeted for anti-measles vaccinations in metropolitan Manila in just a week.

ing it to the attack without an investigation, saying that it was part of New Delhi's "known rhetoric and tactics" to divert global attention from human rights violations in Kashmir.

India and Pakistan each administer part of Kashmir, but both claim the Muslim-majority region in its entirety.

The attack has led to a spike in communal tensions in Hindu-majority India.

Videos of anti-Kashmiri protests have gone viral on social media, including some in which Kashmiri students were beaten by mobs of Hindu nationalist groups and warned to leave colleges and universities.

On the outskirts of the northern city of Ambala, about 300 Kashmiri students were forced to leave their rented accommodations by local Hindu residents, at least three students reached by phone told The Associated Press.

One of the students who asked to be identified by only his middle name, Ahmed,

due to fear of reprisals from his university, said he and his fellow students felt unsafe despite police security.

The Kashmiri students blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist ruling party for stoking anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiment in India ahead of a general election due this year.

In another northern city, Dehradun, at least 20 Kashmiri students were forced to lock themselves in their hostel rooms for safety until police arrived, The Times of India newspaper reported. Police in Dehradun said the students were safe but refused to comment further.

Vijay Kumar, a top government adviser, said they received several complaints from students and businesspeople, and authorities were "doing everything possible for the security" of Kashmiris. He said authorities have spoken with officials in various cities and also set up help centers for Kashmiris living outside the state.

## World

# AS BUSINESSES REOPEN AFTER PROTEST Haitians seek water, food

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** (AP)—Businesses and government offices slowly reopened across Haiti on Monday after more than a week of violent demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of protesters demanding the resignation of President Jovenel Moise over skyrocketing prices that have more than doubled for basic goods amid allegations of government corruption.

Public transportation resumed in the capital, Port-au-Prince, where people began lining up to buy food, water and gasoline as crews cleared streets of barricades thrown up during the protests.

Moise has refused to step down, though his prime minister, Jean-Henry Ceant, said over the weekend that he has agreed to reduce certain government budgets by 30 percent, limit travel of government officials and remove all non-essential privileges they enjoy, including phone cards. Ceant also vowed to investigate alleged misspending tied to a Venezuelan program that provided Haiti with subsidized oil and said he has requested that a court audit all state-owned enterprises. He also said he would increase the minimum wage and lower the prices of ba-

sic goods, although he did not provide specifics.

Many Haitians remained wary of those promises, and schools remained closed on Monday amid concerns of more violence.

"The government is making statements that are not changing anything at this point," said Hector Jean, a moto taxi driver who was waiting for customers. He recently had to buy a gallon of gas for 500 gourdes (\$6), more than twice what he normally pays, and he has been unable to find customers who can afford to pay higher fares.

"It's very hard to bring something home," he said. "I have three kids."

Other goods in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation have also doubled in price in recent weeks: A sack of rice now costs \$18 and a can of dry beans around \$7. In addition, a gallon of cooking oil has gone up to nearly \$11 from \$7. Inflation has been in the double digits since 2014, and the price hikes are angering many people in Haiti, where about 60 per cent of its nearly 10.5 million people struggle to get by on about \$2 a day. A recent report by the U.S. Agency for International Development said about half the country is under-

nourished.

Dozens of people on Monday stood outside a financial services company waiting to pick up money transfers from relatives abroad. Among them was 35-year-old Andre Simon, a taxi driver who had been standing in line for at least three hours and has been unable to work for more than a week.

"I don't have anything at home," said Simon, who drives a small, brightly colored truck known as a tap-tap. "I need that money badly."

The latest violent demonstrations prompted the U.S. government to warn people last week not to travel to Haiti as it urged Moise's administration to implement economic reforms and redouble efforts to fight corruption and hold accountable those implicated in the scandal over the Venezuelan subsidized oil program, known as Petrocaribe. A Haitian Senate investigation has alleged embezzlement by at least 14 former officials in ex-President Michel Martelly's administration, but no one has been charged. Meanwhile, Haitians have demanded a probe into the spending of the \$3.8 billion Haiti received as part of the Petrocaribe program.

# Sex abuse survivors to meet with Vatican summit organizers

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—The organizers of Pope Francis' summit on preventing clergy sex abuse will meet this week with a dozen abuse victims who have descended on Rome to protest the Catholic Church's response to the crisis and demand an end to decades of cover-up by church leaders, officials said Monday.

These abuse survivors will not be addressing the summit of church leaders itself. Rather, they will meet Wednesday with the four-member organizing committee to convey their complaints.

The larger summit of some 190 presidents of bishops' conferences from around the world, plus key Vatican officials, begins Thursday.

At a press conference Monday, organizers called the summit a "turning point" in the church's approach

to clergy sex abuse. The Catholic Church has long been criticized for its failure to hold bishops accountable when they covered up for priests who raped and molested children.

They said the summit would focus on three key aspects of dealing with the crisis: making bishops aware of their own responsibilities to protect their flocks, the consequences of shirking those responsibilities, and the need for transparency.

Archbishop Charles Scicluna, the Vatican's leading sex crimes investigator and an organizer of the meeting, said transparency was key, since the church's knee-jerk response of denial and silence in the past had only exacerbated the problem.

"Whether it's criminal or malicious complicity and a code of silence, or whether it's denial or trauma in its very primitive state, we need

to get away from that," he told reporters. "We have to face the facts."

Chilean abuse victim Juan Carlos Cruz, who is coordinating the survivor meeting, told The Associated Press he hopes for a "constructive and open dialogue" and for summit members to convey survivors' demand that bishops stop pleading ignorance about abuse.

"Raping a child or a vulnerable person and abusing them has been wrong since the 1st century, the Middle Ages, and now," he said.

Francis called the summit in September after he himself discredited Cruz and other Chilean victims of a notorious predator priest. Francis was subsequently implicated in the cover-up of Theodore McCarrick, the onetime powerful American cardinal who just last week was defrocked for sexually abusing minors as well as adults.



# Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING

## Frank Houser camellia blossoms *are enormous, offer rare beauty and a glimpse into a hero*

By NORMAN WINTER  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It is highly likely that as camellia shows occur throughout the country, the Frank Houser and Variegated Frank Houser will be the ones getting the wows. I would be so bold as to say look for some of them around the winner's table.

It seems that for one reason or another the camellia industry has been associated with heroes and those with a dedication to service, such is the case of Frank Houser and his friend and renowned camellia breeder Dr. Walter E. Homeyer. Dr. Frank Houser was a WWII hero. During his 2 1/2 years in service overseas, he commanded the Third Army Hospital in Paris. During the Battle of the Bulge, he worked behind the lines treating massive casualties and also commanded hospital trains ferrying the wounded from D-Day invasion back to Paris.

After the war, Houser returned to Macon, Ga., and began a 65-year career in medicine. He became one of the first doctors to experiment safely with penicillin. He was 'Man of the Year' in Bibb County, and 'General Practitioner of the Year' by the Medical Association of Georgia. The camellia world, however, is indebted to him for being a camellia lover and hybridizer himself.

The Frank Houser camellia, however, was hybridized by his neighbor, friend, and Doctor, too, Dr. Walter E. Homeyer of Macon, Ga. Frank Houser is a cross between *Camellia japonica* 'Steve Blount,' and *camellia reticulata*, Buddha. The blooms are magnificently large. It and the variegated Frank Houser have been frequent winners in competition and offer that wow factor in the landscape.

Frank Houser is recommended for zones 8-10 and thus cold hardy to 10 degrees. Like all other camellias, they require acidic soil and perform best in woodland landscapes with high filtered light. Early spring represents the best months for planting woody shrubs and trees and by all means camellias like Frank Houser. By planting in early spring, we open the door for good root growth prior to summer's heat.

One thing I try to stress



Frank Houser camellias are cold hardy from zones 8-10 but can be grown in containers able to be moved to protection in colder areas. TNS



The Variegated Frank Houser is often seen on the winning table. TNS



▲ The blossoms of Frank Houser camellias are enormous. TNS

Frank Houser is a *Camellia reticulata* hybrid producing enormous blossoms. TNS

in my seminars is to put not only camellias but all shrubs in a bed. We must prepare a bed for the life of our shrubs. It only makes sense that if we are going to make an investment in the landscape, we need to do it right. It is so sad to see a fine camellia, like Frank Houser, placed in a location where it will be surrounded by turf.

Frank Houser would also make an excellent container plant that could be moved to allow for cold winter protection in colder zones. The American Camellia Society has great tips for growing camellias in containers. While on their website, check out dates and locations for camellia shows near you. You'll gain a wealth of knowledge visiting with local camellia lovers. Garden centers will have fresh stock and certified nurseryman available to assist you this spring in picking out the camellias of your dreams.



### Top U.S. Botanical Gardens

- ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden, Albuquerque, NM
- Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta, GA
- Bellevue Botanical Garden, Bellevue, WA
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylestown, MA
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY
- Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Charlotte, NC
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN
- Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago, IL

— Brenda Weaver Source: [www.theactivetimes.com](http://www.theactivetimes.com)





# Life & Style

## First-ever 'Jeopardy!' team contest draws top champions

**CULVER CITY, Calif.** (AP)—Glance around the "Jeopardy!" set during rehearsals for its first-ever team championship and it's easy to be intimidated by the assembled brain power.

There's Brad Rutter, whose overall "Jeopardy!" haul, \$4.3 million, is the most won on any game show. And Ken Jennings, a 74-game winner and top moneymaker, with \$2.5 million, in non-tournament "Jeopardy!" competition. And Buzzy Cohen, the reign-

ing Tournament of Champions winner.

They're among the six captains who will join their teams in competing for a top \$1 million prize in a series of 10 episodes that begin airing Wednesday and conclude March 5. The other three captains: Julia Collins, No. 2 in overall winnings on the show; Colby Burnett, a Teachers Tournament and Tournament of Champions victor, and Austin Rogers, No. 5 in games and money won.

"It's like the Mount Rushmore of 'Jeopardy!'" observed Jimmy McGuire, part of the traveling "clue crew" that poses video answers from distant spots.

The 18 contestants were chosen primarily on the basis of their previous success, with an edge going to fan favorites as determined by social media, said Harry Friedman, executive producer of the syndicated show hosted by Alex Trebek and featuring announcer Johnny Gilbert.

Can "Jeopardy!" soloists work together? "We're going to find out," Trebek said.

The captains, who will also play, built their three-person teams from among the remaining 12 contestants. The

full teams won't play directly against each other, with one person from each team designated to compete in a game's first round, another to play double "Jeopardy!" and the third to play the final round.

The winning teammates will get equal shares of the top prize, about \$330,000 each, said Friedman. The second- and third-place prizes to be split are \$300,000 and \$100,000.

## In France, the Force is strong with lightsaber dueling

**BEAUMONT-SUR-OISE, France** (AP)—Master Yoda, dust off his French, he must.

It's now easier than ever in France to act out "Star Wars" fantasies, because its fencing federation has borrowed from a galaxy far, far away and officially recognized lightsaber dueling as a competitive sport, granting the iconic weapon from George Lucas' saga the same status as the foil, epee and sabre, the traditional blades used at the Olympics.

Of course, the LED-lit, rigid polycarbonate lightsaber replicas can't slice a Sith lord in half. But they look and, with the more expensive sabers equipped with a chip in their hilt that emits a throaty electric rumble, even sound remarkably like the silver screen blades that Yoda and other characters wield in the blockbuster movies.

Plenty realistic, at least, for duelists to work up an impressive sweat slashing, feinting and stabbing in organized,

3-minute bouts. The physicality of lightsaber combat is part of why the French Fencing Federation threw its support behind the sport and is now equipping fencing clubs with lightsabers and training would-be lightsaber instructors. Like virtuous Jedi knights, the French federation sees itself as combatting a Dark Side: The sedentary habits of 21st-century life that are sickening ever-growing numbers of adults and kids.

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### No plan for Smollett to do follow-up police interview Monday

**CHICAGO** (AP) — Attorneys for "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett say there are no plans for him to meet with Chicago detectives Monday for a follow-up interview about his reported assault. Anne Kavanagh is a spokeswoman for Smollett's lawyers. She says in an emailed statement that his lawyers "will keep an active dialogue with Chicago police on his behalf." Smollett reported last month that he was physically attacked by two men who yelled homophobic and racial slurs. He said they also yelled he was in "MAGA Country," an apparent reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan. Police said Saturday that the investigation had "shifted" after detectives questioned two brothers about the attack and released them without charges. Police say they've requested a follow-up interview with Smollett. Smollett's lawyers say the actor feels

"victimized" by reports that he played a role in the assault.

#### Vandal topples wax statue of Sean 'Diddy' Combs

**NEW YORK** (AP) — Police say someone attacked a statue of Sean "Diddy" Combs at Madame Tussauds wax museum in New York, shoving the rap impresario's likeness so forcefully it lost its head. Investigators were continuing Monday to look for a suspect in the strange episode Saturday night. Police say a man entered the museum near Times Square around 8:45 p.m., went to the statue and knocked it to the ground. The head fell off as the figure toppled. Madame Tussauds New York says artists will fix the damage as quickly as possible to get the figure back to the museum's A-List Party Room. General Manager Tom Middleton notes that Madame Tussauds doesn't rope off its statues so "guests can interact respectfully" with them.

Combs attended his statue's unveiling in 2009.

#### Lisa Borders steps down as head of Time's Up organization

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) — Lisa Borders says she has resigned as president and CEO of Time's Up, the gender equality initiative formed last year in response to sexual misconduct allegations in Hollywood. Borders says in statement Monday that she is stepping aside "with deep regret" due to family issues. She didn't elaborate. Chief Operating Officer Rebecca Goldman will serve as interim CEO while the organization conducts an executive search. Borders, former president of the WNBA, was named head of Time's Up last year. The organization was formed in January 2018 in response to sexual misconduct allegations leveled against powerful men in the entertainment industry including Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey.



#### CRIME SCENE

A view of the archeological site of Largo Argentina, in Rome, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019. A complex of ancient temples linked to Julius Caesar's murder will be opened to the public. The below-street-level temple ruins at Largo Argentina in the heart of downtown Rome is visible to pedestrians. But Rome's mayor said Monday by late 2021, walkways will be constructed inside the site so that tourists can stroll through the ruins. Bulgari luxury goods maker is sponsoring the work. The area includes a stone podium that was part of the senate-meeting place where Caesar was slain in 44 B.C. AP

## Grandma is collateral damage in man's war with mother

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm close to 70 and have three grown children. I've been a widow for 15 years. My oldest son, age 45, has pretty much cut himself off from our fairly close family. His reason: Two years ago, after I had surgery for lung cancer, he claims I told him I wished I had never had children. This couldn't be further from the truth. All three of mine were planned.

My other children decided the hospital was overmedicating me and that most of what I was babbling was nonsense. I only remember bits and pieces and have no idea whether my recollections are accurate.

I have no problem dealing with my son's attitude; I'm a realist. The problem is the way it's affecting my 90-year-old mother, who lives with me. She feels he has cut her out of his life, too, because of me, and it appears she's right.

How can we convince him he's ripping his grandmother's heart out when he won't talk to either of us? She doesn't deserve such treatment, and he has no right to hurt her this way.

BEWILDERED IN FLORIDA

**DEAR BEWILDERED:** If this is the ONLY reason for the estrangement from your son—which I doubt—have his siblings talk to him and point out that: (1) You were so drugged up after your surgery you were not in your right mind, therefore you shouldn't be punished or held responsible for any gibberish that came out of your mouth during

that period, and (2) it is wrong to punish Granny in such a heartless fashion for something that has nothing to do with her. Perhaps they will be able to get through to him where you cannot.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband is a successful man. He is charming in public, but at heart he's a very private person. I was successful in my field, and I'm more outgoing.

He is proud to show me off at parties because people find me interesting and witty, but without fail, at the end of the night he will tell me that somewhere during the evening I "crossed the line." Perhaps I spent too much time talking with another man, or said something he found inappropriate. If I look the wrong way, he accuses me of flirting with someone. Invariably I get a lecture on the way home or the next morning.

I told him this morning that I hate to go out with other people now because of it. He took great offense at that and said, "You are not the VICTIM here. You are the PERPETRATOR."

Sometimes I do say things that come out wrong, but I don't mean them. It would kill me to know that I hurt someone with my words. I am not interested in any other man. I love my husband. What can I do?

LIFE OF THE PARTY IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR LIFE:** Not knowing either of you, I cannot deter-

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**mine if your husband is extremely controlling, jealous and insecure, or whether you are doing something out of line. You and your husband could benefit from discussing this with a licensed marriage and family therapist. If he refuses to go—and he may—you should go without him.**

**If your behavior at these gatherings was really unacceptable or an embarrassment, he would not want to "show you off at parties." You shouldn't have to worry that you'll be lectured the next day for just being yourself. Something is definitely wrong here, and I don't think it's with you.**

■■■

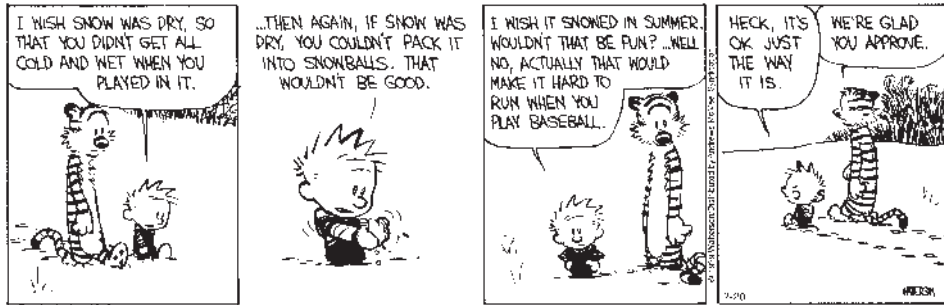
To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



# Pastimes

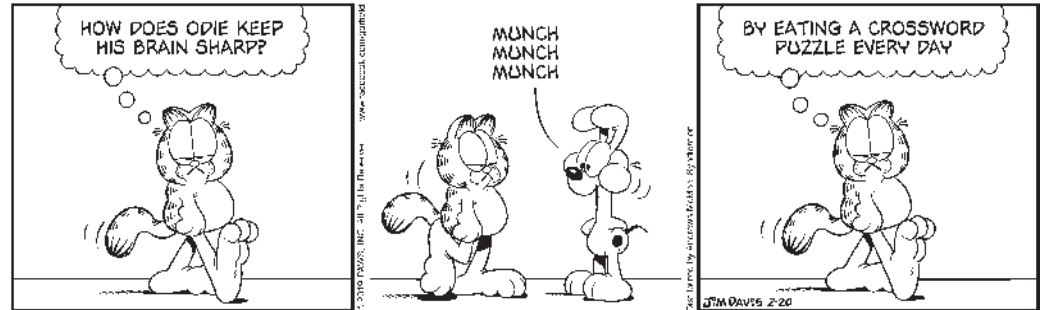
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Landed  
5 Gear-wheel  
8 Slightly  
12 Sultry  
13 "— you serious?"  
14 Bam roof spinner  
15 Strict disciplinarian  
17 Noble Italian family  
18 Swift  
19 Sculpted trunks  
21 Old Olds  
22 Doctor Zhivago  
23 Wye follower  
26 Moreover  
28 On edge  
31 Sciences' partner  
33 Observe  
35 Campus VIP  
36 "Hog-wash!"

**DOWN**

16 Notion  
20 Ump's call  
23 Hit with a ray gun  
24 Triage ctrs.  
25 System for linking computers  
27 Ruby of films  
29 — Paulo, Brazil  
30 Away from WSW  
32 Island wraps  
34 Queen's domain  
37 Stir-fry pan  
39 Entryway  
42 Factions  
44 Packing string  
45 Halt  
46 Far (Pref.)  
48 Author Bagnold  
49 Tear  
50 Remain  
53 Torched

**38 Finale**  
**40 Water**  
**41 Love god**  
**43 Inherited**  
**45 Painter's motion**  
**47 Reduces**  
**51 Nash-ville's st.**  
**52 Instru-ment in a Dixieland band**  
**54 Couturier Cassini**  
**55 Stannum**  
**56 Pinta's companion**  
**57 Favorites**  
**58 Norm (Abbr.)**

**59 Vortex**  
**1 Chari-table gift**  
**2 Bound**  
**3 Concern-ing**  
**4 Spud gorges**  
**5 Big mine**  
**6 Yield**  
**7 Oil tycoon J. Paul —**  
**8 Declared**  
**9 Baby's bed**  
**10 Division word**  
**11 Casual tops**

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

L	A	V	A	W	O	N	L	O	T	S
A	J	A	X	A	B	E	A	G	R	A
L	A	T	E	S	H	O	W	Z	E	A
A	R	T	P	O	E	M	Y	E	E	
				L	E	O	W	A	S	
M	U	S	C	D	I	V	U	L	G	E
A	S	C	F	H	U	G	S	E	A	S
R	O	S	E	B	U	D	F	A	I	L
S	E	E	J	O	N					
P	L	A	T	E	R	U	M	A	C	E
R	E	M	O	L	U	M	P	S	U	M
I	G	O	R	Y	E	P	A	T	O	P
G	O	R	Y	E	D	S	P	O	N	Y

**Yesterday's answer 2-20**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18						19	20			
		21				22				
23	24	25		26		27		28		29
31		32		33		34		35		
36			37		38		39		40	
		41			42		43		44	
45	46					47		48	49	50
51				52	53					
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Rihanna, 31; Brian Littrell, 44; Willie Garson, 55; Sidney Poitier, 92.

**Happy Birthday:** Focus on what's important. As long as you take care of your responsibilities and don't let emotional matters dictate what you do or the decisions you make, you will come out on top. Letting someone interfere in your affairs will end up holding you back and causing confusion and uncertainty. Mind your own business, and aim to be productive. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 25, 31, 37, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Learn something new. If you don't like what you are doing, find something you do enjoy and add it to your daily routine. Life is about living and striving to make the most of it. Don't give up; get moving. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Put more energy into your pursuits. You've got what it takes to make a difference, so don't fall short when others are counting on you to lead the way. Engage in talks and offer suggestions. Personal improvements can be made. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Truth matters. Situations will spin out of control quickly. Relationships will be damaged if you aren't honest or if you surround yourself with false allies. Get to the bottom of what's going on, and clear up any misunderstanding quickly. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Share your feelings and collaborate with someone you love to come up with viable solutions that will make your life and your relation-

ship better. Look at every option, and choose the one that offers you the freedom to express your creativity. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** It's up to you to bring about change. Don't let anger be your vehicle when desire should be what motivates you to move forward. An opportunity is only as good as what you do with it. Make your actions count. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Share your thoughts, feelings and emotions with the people who mean the most to you. Forming an alliance with those who want to stand by your side and strive to reach similar goals will encourage you to finish what you start. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't lose sight of what you want. Giving in to someone who is critical or demanding will not help you reach your goals. Make changes that will result in greater opportunities as well as personal and financial freedom to grow and excel. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Learn through observation and experience. Put more time and effort into the pursuits that bring you the most joy. Be honest with yourself and others about what makes you tick and encourages you to live life your way. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You'll face uncertainty and confusion if you reveal your plans. If you want to pursue something, take action instead of talking about what you want to do. Change happens when you mark your path and follow through. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Consider what you have, what you need and what to do next. Simplify your life by letting go of what you no longer need. Trust in your judgment, abilities and needs. Moderation is rewarding and will bring positive results. ★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Stick to your plan, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Trust in your ability and get the facts straight. If you rely on someone else, you will be disappointed. Don't let what others say or do sidetrack you. ★★★★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Choose wisely. Don't base your decisions on what someone tells you. Problems with a friend or relative should be dealt with carefully. Disillusionment will set in if someone you trust doesn't live up to his or her promises. ★★

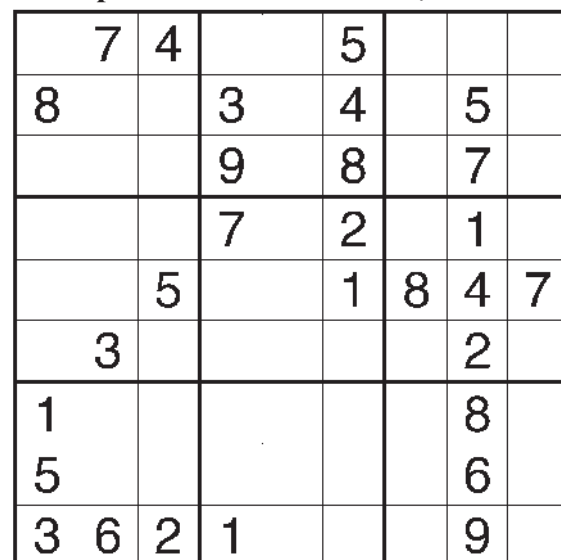
**Birthday Baby:** You are curious, imaginative and charming. You are resourceful and energetic.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [EugeniaLast.com](http://EugeniaLast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



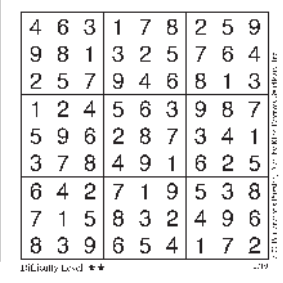
Difficulty Level ★★★

2/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WORKING OUT YOUR ARMS

Solution: 9 letters

H T G N E R T S T H G I E W S  
A L U P A C S L I N G S H O T  
P U N I H C T P U H S U P R H  
O D S G S H E S W O B L E K M  
S A R N N A S W I M U F R O U  
P T O I I I Y R E T R A S U S  
E L R N E R D E D I P S C T C  
R S R O V Z S L G N E C U S L  
C E I T N I B H I R D I L M E  
I V M E C G T A P U H A P R S  
R O S R O T G N R C B L T A P  
C M E N D U R A N C E Y E E E  
L X R S S L L E B B M U D R C  
E X T E N D B L N E G Y X O I  
S T R I C E P S S E N T I F B

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2/20

Adult, Artery, Bench, Biceps, Bodybuilding, Chair, Chin Up, Circles, Curls, Dips, Dumbbells, Elbows, Endurance, Exercise, Extend, Ez Bar, Fascial, Fitness, Forearms, Gain, Lean, Mirrors, Moves, Muscles, Oxygen, Press, Push-up, Reps, Right, Scapula, Sculpted, Sets, Slingshot, Strength, Strong, Swim, Toning, Torso, Triceps, Veins, Weights, Workouts

Yesterday's Answer: Buyer

Treasures 13 through 34 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com).

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.







# With Pats lurking, Giants back out of Beckham trade



**NEW YORK—** The Giants came close to trading receiver Odell Beckham Jr. last year. And then they didn't trade him.

So what happened? New England's interest in Beckham ultimately caused the Giants to think twice. Basically, if the Patriots saw something in Beckham that would have caused them to give up significant trade compensation and to cough up a significant second contract even though he'd never previously played for the Patriots, the Giants should be more inclined to keep him around.

The fears may have been well founded. Although the Patriots haven't had a solid track record of drafting receivers, they've found some of their best receivers in the Belichick-Brady era by trading for veterans like Randy Moss, Wes Welker, Brandin Cooks, and Chris Hogan. So if the Patriots were willing to pull the trigger on a Beckham trade, the Patriots truly believed that Beckham would have become a major difference-maker.

Whether he would have been a major difference-maker is a different question. It takes a certain kind of personality to accept The Patriot Way; former NFL receiver Chad Johnson was required to check his personality at the door when traded by the Bengals in 2011—and he promptly struggled during his short time in New England. Beckham quite possibly would have had the same experience.

The Patriots apparently were banking on Beckham



The New England Patriots' interest on Odell Beckham Jr. (13) made the New York Giants think twice about trading the receiver.

AP

thriving, with coach Bill Belichick, offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, and quarterback Tom Brady providing the kind of structure, support, and (ultimately) success that would have kept Beckham from engaging in periodic outbursts fundamentally fueled by a burning desire to win.

Regardless, New England's interest was enough to get the Giants to trade Beckham to no one last year. Whether that could change this year will be the subject of an upcoming blurb.

## Coch brings familiar face for Rodgers

In Green Bay, when Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers gets ready for his 15th season, he'll be working with a new coach and offensive coordinator.

Plus, for the first time in his career, he'll be directing a new offense.

At least there will be a constant for the 35-year-old quarterback: the return of Luke Getsy as quarterbacks coach.

A quality control coach in

2014 and 2015 and receivers coach in 2016 and 2017, Getsy spent last season as offensive coordinator and receivers coach at Mississippi State. His presence should ease the adjustments for the two-time MVP.

"You've got to earn people's trust, show them how much you care before they're going to care about you and want to do well for you," Getsy said on Monday as the team introduced the staff of new coach Matt LaFleur.

"I think that phase is prob-

ably going to just happen quicker, naturally, being here for four years and creating a relationship. That part of it makes the transition much easier.

"Installing a new offense and the new principles and all that stuff, we've got a lot of work to do. We're going to rely on the relationship as far as the mutual trust, respect we have for each other, but we've got a lot of work to do to get him to dive into this offense fully and being able to function at a high level."

LaFleur said that Getsy's history with the team was another reason for his hiring.

"Certainly, we're going to find the best quarterback coach that's out there," LaFleur said. "Some things that I really did like about Luke was the fact that he played quarterback in college. I reached out not only to Aaron, but a couple other guys with him being in the building before, just to find out what they thought of him as a man and as a coach, and everybody gave him a thumbs-up."

Rodgers' introduction into the new offense can't start until the beginning of the offseason program on April 1.

There's a lot for the new coaching staff to do before the players return in six weeks, including preparation for the scouting combine, which begins later this month.

LaFleur, Getsy and offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett all will have input in the quarterbacks room. Making sure they're delivering the same message to Rodgers and fellow quarterbacks DeShone Kizer and Tim Boyle will be key.

"We've got three quarterback guys that are going to be hitting him from all angles," LaFleur said. "I know that I need to be in that room as much as I possibly can because I am going to be the play-caller. I think that relationship between the play-caller and the quarterback is absolutely critical. I don't foresee ever missing a quarterback meeting."

Getsy arrives at the change with a unique perspective. He spent four seasons teaching former coach Mike McCarthy's playbook. Now, he's spent a few weeks learning LaFleur's playbook. Getsy said terminology will be the biggest change for Rodgers.

"It has the West Coast roots. The backbone is what he's comfortable," Getsy said. "The timing, the rhythm and all that stuff that he's really, really good at, I think that's all there."

"The principles are there. It's just speaking the language. That'll be the biggest thing—for everybody—because there's a lot of people in this building that have been here a while and have been ingrained in the previous terminology."

In other news, the Jacksonville Jaguars have exercised a \$12 million option on Pro Bowl defensive end Calais Campbell for 2019.

The team also picked up options on defensive end and special teams captain Lereen McCray and backup safety Cody Davis on Monday.

Campbell signed a four-year, \$60 million contract with Jacksonville in March 2017. The deal included \$30 million guaranteed.

## Murray waits to measure up after picking NFL

**FORT WORTH, Texas** (AP)—Now that Kyler Murray has decided to play in the NFL instead of reporting to spring training as a first-round draft pick by baseball's Oakland Athletics, the questions can shift to the Heisman Trophy winner's height.

The former Oklahoma star says everyone will get their answer at the NFL combine next week. And that was after Murray listed himself at 5-foot-10 Monday before accepting the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's top college quarterback.

Murray said being projected as a first-rounder as a quarterback shorter than 6-foot is "crazy to me," while adding he hasn't "seen that since I've been alive."

The 21-year-old who was a state championship-winning high school quarterback in the Dallas area said he "wasn't looking very good for the NFL side of things"

before his standout season with the Sooners. Murray's only previous college experience was a rough freshman season at Texas A&M.

Murray is training with his father, Kevin, for the scouting combine and his pro day.

He has not decided whether he will throw next week during drills in Indianapolis.

Murray said the last time he ran a 40-yard dash was a couple of years ago, and he ran a 4.3.

Many scouts anticipate what Murray will measure. An Oklahoma official recently tweeted that Murray measured 5-9 7/8 in socks before last season.

Murray chose the NFL over Major League Baseball and is expected to become the first athlete ever selected in the first round of both drafts. The A's made Murray the ninth overall choice in June.

Murray said he is at peace with his decision.

"I grew up loving the game

of football," Murray said, via video from Mike Doocy of Fox4. "That was my passion always. My dad played football. My uncles played football. Always had a football in my hands. So for me, I'm ready to go. I hope I can keep making my family proud, keep making Oklahoma proud, keep making the great state of Texas proud. I'm just excited to finally reach my goal to be in the NFL."

Meanwhile, a projected first-round draft pick has been ruled out of competing in NFL scouting combine.

ESPN reported Monday that Oklahoma wide receiver Marquise Brown will not be able to participate in workouts prior to the draft after undergoing surgery to repair a Lisfranc injury early last month. Brown is expected to be healthy by the start of training camp, however, according to the report.

A 5-foot-10, 168-pound

wideout from Florida, Brown was named a first-team All-America honoree by multiple outlets last season, including USA TODAY Sports. He was arguably the favorite target of Murray, catching 75 passes for 1,318 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2018.

Brown, whose nickname is "Hollywood," has been widely projected as a mid-to-late first-round pick in April's draft. USA TODAY Sports had Brown being taken at No. 22 by the Ravens in its post-Super Bowl mock draft.

ESPN reported that Brown suffered the injury in the Big 12 title game and played through it in the Orange Bowl against Alabama.

Another projected first-round pick, Mississippi State defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons, will also miss the combine after confirming last week that he had torn the anterior cruciate ligament in one of his knees.



# Machado gets up to \$280M offer from Padres



**M E S A , Ariz.**—Manny Machado, one

of the biggest prizes on the free agent market, has finally received a contract proposal that may suit his demands.

The San Diego Padres submitted an eight-year offer to Machado worth between \$240 million and \$280 million—which is heavily deferred—two people with knowledge of the talks said.

The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because negotiations are ongoing.

Machado is also in talks with the Chicago White Sox and Philadelphia Phillies.

The 26-year-old Machado hit .297 with 37 homers last season for the Baltimore Orioles and Los Angeles Dodgers, playing in 162 games with 145 starts at shortstop.

Machado's personal preference was to sign with the New York Yankees and met with the team in December, but there have been no negotiations between the sides in recent months.

## MLBPA head claims 'attack on free agency'

As full-squad workouts get underway in Florida and Arizona with top free agents still unsigned, Major League Baseball Players Association executive director Tony Clark issued a scathing statement in response to commissioner Rob Manfred's comments Sunday.

"Players' eyes don't deceive them, and nor do fans," Clark said in a statement Monday. "As players report to spring training and see respected veterans and valued teammates on the sidelines, they are rightfully frustrated by a two-year attack on free agency."

During a press conference in Florida on Sunday, Manfred blamed Clark for claiming last spring that certain teams weren't trying to win — a sentiment that has been echoed by plenty of players over the past year.

Clark stuck to his guns Monday and made it clear he still feels that way.

"Players commit to compete every pitch of every at-bat, and every inning of every game," Clark said. "Yet we're operating in an environment in which an increasing number of clubs appear to be making little effort to improve their rosters, compete for a championship or justify the price of a ticket."

Manfred had tried to paint a brighter picture a day earlier, hinting that nothing is really wrong and it's merely a perception based on negative media coverage.

"I hate the negativity that surrounds the coverage of the game right now," Manfred



<sup>AP</sup>  
In this Oct. 24, 2018, file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Machado, right, hits a single in front of Boston Red Sox catcher Christian Vazquez during the fourth inning in Game 2 of the World Series baseball game in Boston.

said Sunday. "Probably the best antidote for that is to get out there and start playing the game. I think once we

get out and start playing the game, the glow of positivity will reemerge."

Meanwhile, Vladimir

Guerrero Jr. is not worrying about whether he will start the season with the Toronto Blue Jays.

The 19-year-old son of Hall of Famer Vladimir Guerrero is considered the top prospect entering 2019. Yet, it would

## Cards manager says Goldschmidt better than advertised

**JUPITER, Fla.** (AP)—St. Louis manager Mike Shildt's phone lit up with texts and calls praising the character of Paul Goldschmidt after the Cardinals traded for the slugging first baseman in December.

"A lot of times the hyperbole doesn't meet what's real," Shildt said. "In this case it's exceeded it. He's come in and been unbelievably engaging, thoughtful, proactive. He's really smart and he's really dedicated to what we're doing and how we're doing it. He's exceeded expectations already, before we even got on the field."

Goldschmidt has physically been in Jupiter for about 10 days. Mentally, he's been in a Cardinals uniform for months.

Shortly after the trade, he began swapping texts with Cardinals coaches and teammates discussing the finer points of the game, like baserunning and taking leads.

"They are not short conversations," Shildt said. "And they are not forced. He loves it, is my point. He's a baseball guy."

For Goldschmidt, those kinds of offseason chats are the norm.

"Being new, I'm sure they

wanted to make sure I got the lay of the land," Goldschmidt said. "Where I was probably the guy reaching out (in Arizona) when we signed the free agents or a new coach came in."

The Cardinals won 88 games last year, their third straight season missing the playoffs.

"We needed just a little bit more," Shildt said.

St. Louis traded right-hander Luke Weaver, catcher Carson Kelly, minor leaguer Andy Young and a draft pick for Goldschmidt, whom Shildt called one of the "top five players in baseball."

Goldschmidt hit .290 with 33 homers and 83 RBIs in 2018. For his career, he's a .297 hitter with 209 homers over eight seasons. The Cardinals hope Goldschmidt will add pop in the middle of the order. A three-time Gold Glove first baseman, Goldschmidt will also stabilize the Cardinals' defense that led the majors in errors.

Shildt is already smiling at thought of a lineup that features Goldschmidt, Matt Carpenter and a healthy Marcel Ozuna potentially at cleanup.

"I don't have an announce-

ment to make, but I know he's going to hit in the top three," Shildt said of Goldschmidt. "And Carp will hit one, so we can do the math from there."

Goldschmidt took live batting practice with his new teammates for the first time on Monday, the first full-squad workout for the Cardinals.

"He just jumped right in," shortstop Paul DeJong said. "He's part of this group already."

The 31-year-old Goldschmidt has one year remaining on his contract. The Cardinals have expressed interest in signing him to a longer deal.

"In my career I've always publicly just never commented on my contract, so I'll just keep that kind of same thing," Goldschmidt said.

In Arizona, NL MVP Christian Yelich tweeted a GIF of a leaping Moose.

The Milwaukee Brewers were excited to know Mike Moustakas likely is sticking around for 2019.

Moustakas and the Brewers are nearing a deal that would keep the third baseman in Milwaukee for a guarantee of \$10 million, a person familiar with the negotiations

told The Associated Press on Sunday. The person spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity because the agreement will be subject to a successful physical. The sides were negotiating a deal that includes a mutual option for 2020, the person said.

"I've known Mikey forever, since he was a little kid," said Ryan Braun, who like Moustakas grew up and resides in Southern California. "He came here last year, fit in seamlessly, performed for us really well on the field. Obviously, became a big part of our culture in the locker room as well."

Yelich, also a Southern California resident, spent the offseason working out with Braun and Moustakas and also teamed with them to organize relief efforts following last fall's California wildfires.

"Great competitor, great teammate, big contributor to us down the stretch," Yelich said. "It's good to have him back, and he just brings that edge, that mentality back to the clubhouse, a winning culture and how to play the game the right way. It's important, and guys like him are important in this game."

not be surprising if Toronto kept the third baseman in the minor leagues for the first 15 days and delayed his debut until at least April 12. By denying him 15 days of major league service, the Blue Jays would delay his eligibility for free agency by a year, until after the 2025 season.

"Controlling what I can control and then working hard everyday," Guerrero said through a translator on Monday as the Blue Jays held their first full-squad workout. "Making the best out of it. Trying to get better every day and giving the best of me."

Guerrero hit .402 at Double-A and .336 at Triple-A last year, combining for 20 homers and 78 RBIs.

"Can't relate to being 19-years old and being that even-keeled and cool like that kid is," new Toronto manager Charlie Montoyo said. "I'm impressed, to tell you the truth. That's the mark of a star. He's going to be a star someday, as we all know."

Guerrero took part in defensive drills and made several smart plays during a bunting session. He earned a high-five from pitcher Justin Shafer after charging a bunt and picking up the ball barehanded, then making a strong and accurate to first.

In batting practice, Guerrero hit the ball with authority to all fields over 28 swings during six rounds.

"Really talented," Toronto shortstop Freddy Galvis said. "He seems like a really good guy. Good mentality. He's a mature kid. Coming from his father, he was a hard worker. So, he has kind of the same mentality from what I've seen so far."

When asked about being an improved player compared to a year ago, a smiling Guerrero said "wait for the next game and see."

Galvis also has the ability to play other positions.

"You give me a glove, I can play whatever—well not catcher," a smiling Galvis said.

Galvis hit .248 with 31 doubles, five triples and 13 homers for San Diego last year, playing in all 162 games for the second straight season.

He agreed to a \$5 million, one-year contract in January that includes a \$5.5 million club option for 2020.



# After All-Star Game, LeBron, Wade focus on playoff push



**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—LeBron James also immediately switched his attention to aiding the Los Angeles Lakers' playoff bid after claiming victory in the NBA All-Star Game.

Team LeBron defeated Team Giannis, 178-164, with the Lakers superstar contributing 19 points with eight rebounds and four assists.

James' groin injury, sustained on Christmas Day, coincided with the Lakers' drop in form as they slipped from fourth to 10th in the Western Conference.

And as soon as the All-Star Game was over, James outlined his desire to inspire his team (28-29) on a charge to the post-season.

"Looking forward to the second half of the season," James said. "Looking forward to seeing what we can do to get back in this playoff race. That's my only mindset."

"That's the only thing that's going to happen in my mental space for these next two months, pretty much on how I can get this team playing the type of level of basketball we were playing before my injury."

Such is James' winning mentality, the three-time NBA champion was even desperate to be the first to reach the post-game podium and speak to the media.

"You put me on the floor, I love to compete," he said. "I'm a competitor, no matter what it is. I was competing to see if I can get to this table first. Did anybody come here before me? See what I'm talking about? See you all the second half of the season."

Meanwhile, Dwyane Wade is adamant that the end of this season will be the right time for him to bid farewell to the game of basketball.

The game of basketball spent the weekend disagreeing with him.

Wade's final All-Star appearance as a player is now complete, a four-day trip that had testimonials, celebrations, moments with his family, countless photos and chats with some of basketball's royalty, and one more lob to LeBron James for good measure. He scored seven points in his final NBA All-Star Game, helping Team LeBron get a victory over Team Giannis.

"If you could wake up and say, 'This is how I would like my perfect day to go, this is how I would like my perfect All-Star weekend to go,' then this was it for me," Wade told The Associated Press. "This was exactly what I envisioned, what I wanted when I knew I had this opportunity. And it's been even more than I thought it could be."



Team LeBron's LeBron James, right, and Dwyane Wade watch Kevin Durant receive the MVP trophy after the NBA All-Star basketball game on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. The Team LeBron won, 178-164.

ketball stage better than Dwyane Wade," said Thomas, who like Wade is a proud son of the Windy City.

Riley spoke longer than anyone, nearly 20 minutes, and when he got done he tried to play off Wade's "One Last Dance" theme for his final season by having the sounds of Donna Summer's "Last Dance" blare through the room where revelers dined on filet mignon and sea bass.

The music played. Wade and Riley hugged. Riley kissed the most important draftee of his career on the cheek.

"He's the greatest," Riley said.

Wade even savored the regular All-Star machinations—interviews, practice, appearances. Fans screamed for him and clamored for him to sign anything and everything when he walked into media day on Saturday, and he couldn't go anywhere without someone asking for a photo or autograph.

"To be here, for me to be able to choose him to be part of Team LeBron, for him to be here this weekend, it's a bittersweet moment, obviously," said James, Wade's championship-winning teammate in Miami and later a teammate again in Cleveland. "The bitter part of it, that this is his last weekend being in All-Star Weekend and knowing that his journey is coming to an end as far as a basketball player. But the sweet moment is that we've got so much more life to live together, and we will continue that."

The biggest thrill Wade got of his celebration weekend, however, had nothing to do with his own play.

His kid was a star on the All-Star stage.

From throwing lobbs with his dad and James at practice Saturday, getting an on-court tutorial from reigning NBA MVP James Harden, posing for photos himself, even being on the court for warmups at the All-Star Game and slapping fives with Blake Griffin among others, Zaire Wade—a budding star—soaked up everything he could all weekend.

That was precisely what his father wanted.

"Having Zaire by my side every step of this road is something that I really wanted to do," Wade said. "But I couldn't imagine it'd be this cool. He was trending worldwide. That's, like, insane."

The score and the stats from the weekend will be forgotten.

The moments won't be, at least not anytime soon. And with 26 games left in the Heat season, the NBA is not ready to say goodbye.

"He's been one of the guys who's been a leader in our league, an ambassador worldwide as well as a champion," said Los Angeles Lakers President Magic Johnson, one of many who lauded Wade at a dinner to start the weekend.

"D-Wade embraced being the face of the league for a long time. ... I think the league has done well by him this season, with every arena honoring him, but also we're going to miss him."

So this weekend was about the past, present and future.

A few hours after landing in Charlotte, Wade thought he was headed to a dinner with some family and close friends. When he arrived with his wife Gabrielle Union and their new

daughter Kaavia James, he quickly realized that he'd been misled by his inner circle—and dinner for a few was becoming dinner for a few hundred instead.

It turned out to be a five-hour party, replete with a red carpet arrival, him seated on a throne and simultaneously drinking from two glasses of red wine at one point, laughs, hugs, tears and capped by karaoke—one of his off-court obsessions. Speakers includ-

ed Caron Butler, Donovan Mitchell, Isaiah Thomas, Tim Hardaway, his parents Jolinda Wade and Dwyane Wade Sr., Charles Barkley, Chris Paul, Carmelo Anthony and Heat President Pat Riley.

They all told different stories with the same theme: Wade has meant so much, to so many, for so long.

"No one—when I say no one, I mean no one—has done the things at a professional level out of Chicago on a bas-

## Griffin enjoying resurgence a year after trade to Pistons

**DETROIT (AP)**—Blake Griffin doesn't need to jump over any cars to be a hit in the Motor City.

A year after arriving in Detroit with his career at a crossroads, a more earthbound Griffin is doing all he can to shake the Pistons out of their decade-long malaise.

"He does a little bit of everything for us. Probably one of our better pick-and-roll players, passers, scorers, leader by example, just so many things," Detroit coach Dwane Casey said. "His basketball intellect, for me, is one that's been the most impressive of our players. I didn't know that about Blake, because when you think about him, you think about the high-flying dunker and the muscular guy in the post, but there's a lot more to

that than just his dunking and athleticism."

A month shy of his 30th birthday, there are fewer above-the-rim highlights but Griffin's first full season with Detroit has been one of his best. He's averaging a career-high 26.3 points per game while making strides as a perimeter shooter, and he earned his first All-Star selection since 2015.

Most importantly, he's been able to stay healthy, and although the Pistons still have a losing record, they're in the playoff race, largely because of Griffin.

"As a player, you always believe in yourself," Griffin said. "I knew I had another level to go to, and being healthy was part of that. ... But the beginning of the year, my goal isn't to only make

the All-Star team. It's much more than that."

In July 2017, Griffin agreed to a \$171 million, five-year deal with the Clippers, the team that drafted him with the first overall pick in 2009. Less than a year later, he was abruptly traded—from glitzy Los Angeles to a Detroit franchise that hasn't won a playoff game since 2008. It was a risky move for the Pistons, given Griffin's high salary and the fact that he has only three seasons with more than 67 games played. They gave up a first-round draft pick in the trade, and when they missed the playoffs anyway, that was the end of Stan Van Gundy's tenure as coach and president of basketball operations.

For Griffin, it was an inauspicious start to the Detroit

portion of his career, and there's been frustration this season as well. The Pistons are 26-30, tied for the final postseason spot in the Eastern Conference. Even if they do make the playoffs, they don't look like a team ready to make a run.

But for Griffin individually, the season has been a significant step forward. The man who once pulled off a two-handed dunk while jumping over the front of a car is a bit less of an athletic sensation in Detroit, but the blue-collar elements of his game are still plenty effective. The 6-foot-10, 250-pound Griffin can muscle his way to the basket and draw fouls, and he gives the Pistons another tough rebounder alongside Andre Drummond.



# Manta Rays win debut in high school caging

By **ROBY N. PAMINTUAN**  
pamintuanroby@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Southern High School crushed Grace Christian Academy, 82-34, for a strong start in the boys division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Manta Ray starters Greg Deleon Guerrero, Adi Ordon, Clarenz Contreras, Champ Sabangan, and Glen Matalog



turned their defensive plays into a flurry of layups to put the game out of the Eagles' reach right at the end of the first half, 36-18.

The Manta Rays then shifted to a full court man-to-man press and continued to pile up baskets after the intermission, allowing the squad to rack up 42 points in the paint in the second half to complete the blowout. GCA did not have a chance to bring down the deficit to a decent number, as the Eagles failed to keep up with Saipan South-

ern's offensive firepower, scoring only 16 points in the last two quarters.

"Teamwork and self-esteem were the keys for today's victory," Manta Rays coach Ed Guinto

said after their dominant performance. "They had to trust themselves and their teammates."



Saipan Southern High School and Grace Christian Academy players battle for the rebound during their opening game in the CCPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Saipan Southern's explosive start in the league came despite having a short time to prepare for the opening of the season. The Manta Rays were advised relatively late and had about only two weeks to get ready for the competition. They also had to work with the courts that were available on a day-to-day basis in that two-week span.

"We only practice here [Koblerville Gymnasium], at Saipan Southern, and at any court that we can see," Guinto said. "We've been practicing for only two weeks since we received a last-minute invitation."

## Agape, Kagman deliver in opener

In the other boys division games, Agape Christian School and Kagman High School also won their season debuts.

Agape 1 blazed its way past the visiting Mt. Carmel School 2, 63-44, while hosts Ayuyus overwhelmed Saipan International School, 51-33.

Meanwhile, matches in the high school caging will continue today with five games spread out in different courts.

In the boys division, Kagman and Southern will be gunning for win No. 2 as they collide at the Ayuyus court at 3:30pm. Over at the SIS court in As Lito, the Geckos will take on MCS 2 with the opposing teams looking to secure their first win of the season. At the Agape court in Gualo Rai, GCA will be challenging Agape 2, while at the Koblerville Gymnasium, the Lady Knights will be making their season debut against Agape at 4:30pm or after the 3:30pm boys division match between MCS 1 and Agape 1.

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victory was against Ye Gin Son in the opening week of the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-sanctioned tournament.

Elliot, after a tough loss to Kim, swept her last three games, including the one against Chung, 6-4, 6-4, to settle for the runner-up honors. Elliot's two other wins were versus Shin, 6-0, 6-0, and Son, 6-3, 6-2. Chung, with her even 2-2 mark rounded out the Top 3 in the division.

In the boys U16 singles finale, the No. 2 seed Kang went the distance against No. 1 Sam Ryu to win the championship.

Kang lost the closely fought first set, 5-7, and had another neck-and-neck battle with Ryu in the second, but this time the former came out victorious, 7-5, to force a deciding super-tiebreaker third set. Kang then rode on the momentum of his second set triumph to complete the upset against his favored foe, 10-7. No. 4 seed Andy

Kim finished third behind Kang and Ryu after downing Maria Gregoire in the consolation match, 6-4, 6-0.

Meanwhile, No. 1 seeds Roby Schorr and David Kwon did not disappoint after ruling the men's and boys U14 singles events, respectively.

Schoor won the battle of the Top 2 seeds in the men's singles finale after outclassing Jimin Woo, 6-3, 7-6.

Kwon, on the other hand, was undefeated in four games to top the round-robin boys U14 singles competition. He capped his perfect run in the event with a masterful 6-0, 6-1 triumph over Andrew Chung. Though Kwon's win over Chung gave him the clean slate, it was the former's three-set triumph over fiercest rival, Anthony Gregoire, that proved to be pivotal in the title conquest. Gregoire eked out a 7-6 victory in the first set of their crucial match last Saturday, but missed the deciding win when Kwon stood out in the last two, 7-5, 10-6.

## AFC

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immediately sent its best regards to the affected residents and stepped in to help bring back the NMISTC to its top shape. AFC, through its social responsibility program, then allocated a substantial amount to fund the repair work at the Koblerville facility.

"Now, Sheikh Salman and his team decided to come over to personally see what we have here and how they can be of assistance to CNMI football. It takes so much commitment and compassion from Sheikh Salman to come here all the way from Bahrain and have a first-hand look at how we are growing the sport here. We are very honored with the visit and we can't thank Sheikh Salman and AFC enough for all the assistance we have been receiving from them," Tan said.

"When our facility was damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, players were worried that it may take a long time

for them to play again. However, we got our main pitch back and with AFC's help, we will have everything fixed the soonest possible time. Also, in a few weeks, we will start our season and it would be nice for the players to meet the people that made it possible for us to get back our field and make it even better. Sheikh Salman is an inspiration to our players, especially the young kids who always look forward to playing in our beautiful facility," the NMIFA president said.

Meanwhile, Zapanta said NMIFA, together with the Office of the Governor and the various football clubs, have prepared a warm welcome for Sheikh Salman and the rest of the AFC delegation on Monday.

"It will be the first time that an AFC president is visiting us, so we are definitely excited and honored with their presence. The historic visit goes to show that we are getting valuable support and attention from AFC. Even though we're still an associate member of



Asian Football Confederation president Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, right, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan had a dinner meeting at Four Seasons Resort in Dubai a day before they watched the 2019 AFC Asian Cup finals match between Qatar and Japan in Abu Dhabi.

AFC, Sheikh Salman and his team are always there to extend a helping hand to make sure that our players, especial-

ly the youth, will have the resources they need to continue playing and improving their skills," Zapanta said.

Sheikh Salman has been at the helm of AFC since 2013 and under his leadership, significant changes and improvements have

been implemented in the confederation. On top of the list is the strengthening of the women's football program, while he also focuses on combating match fixing and corruption and promotes the introduction of technologies and continued education of players, coaches, and referees on the technical aspect of the sport.

Before serving as AFC president, Sheikh Salman was the head of the Bahrain Football Association. He was credited for what football experts called the "golden era" of Bahraini football. With the grandson of former Bahrain ruler, Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, in charge, the Dilmun's Warriors nearly qualified (just one win away) for both the 2006 FIFA World Cup and 2010 FIFA World Cup. The team also reached the Asian Cup for the first time in 2004 and under Sheikh Salman's leadership, the Dilmun's Warriors moved up to No. 44 in the FIFA world rankings—the highest in the history of Bahraini football. (PR)





With Pats lurking,  
Giants back out of  
Beckham trade

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

After All-Star  
Game, LeBron,  
Wade focus on  
playoff push

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



The highest-ranking official of the Asian Football Confederation will be visiting Saipan on Feb. 25.

AFC president Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa's historic visit to the island was confirmed by AFC general secretary Dato Windsor John, adding that the former will be joined by FIFA Council member Mariano Araneta Jr., AFC Member Association and International Relations director Ravi Kumar and assistant to the AFC president, Abbas Marzouq.

"We are pleased to inform you that the AFC president, His Excellency, Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, will be visiting NMIFA on Feb. 25. The purpose of the visit is to strengthen our mutual relations by engaging closely with your association to gain an insight into the challenges and opportunities facing the game in the Northern Mariana Islands," John said in a letter sent to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

## AFC president Sheikh Salman to visit Saipan



Asian Football Confederation president Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, center, joins Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, right, and Japan Football Association president Kohzo Tashima for a photo taken before the finals match between Qatar and Japan in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup at the Zayed Sports City Stadium in Abu Dhabi early this month.

tion general secretary Ross Zapanta last week.

NMIFA, under the leadership of its president, Jerry Tan, is thankful and honored with the AFC head and other officials' visit, especially now that the association, through the financial assistance of AFC, is working on the repairs at the NMI Soccer Training Center that sustained massive damage from Super Typhoon Yutu. Sheikh Salman's visit is also timely, as NMIFA is gearing up for the opening of the spring season of the youth, women's and men's leagues.

"We are deeply grateful for Sheikh Salman and the AFC delegation, as their presence on island could not have come at an opportune time since we are still recovering from the devastation that Super Typhoon Yutu left on Saipan and Tinian," Tan said.

The NMIFA president added that when AFC learned about what happened to the islands and the training facility, the confederation

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# 3 pull off upset victories

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Helen Kim, Daniel Kang, and Hoo Wang stunned their higher-ranked opponents to win the championships in their respective singles events in the 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Monday at the American Memorial Park courts.

Wang recorded the biggest upset in the tournament, as she was unseeded in the girls U12 singles and slipped past fellow unranked player Dain Lee in the finals after three sets. Wang, who earlier eliminated No. 1



Girls U14 singles champion Helen Kim is flanked by runner-up Hyejin Elliot, left, and Serin Chung during the awards ceremony for the 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Monday at the American Memorial Park courts.



Men's singles winner Robbie Schorr returns to Jeff Race during their semis game in the 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park courts.



seed Savita Sikkell, 6-3, 6-2, dropped the opening set of her title showdown against Lee, 5-7, but still came out on top of the six-player field after sweeping the last two, 6-2, 10-7.

Joining Wang and Lee in the podium was Irin Chung, who took the third place honors following a similar three-set victory over Sikkell in the consolation game, 4-6, 6-0, 10-8.

In the girls U14 singles, which had a round-robin format, the No. 3 Kim grabbed the division title from Top 2 favorites Hyejin Elliot and Serin Chung. Kim secured the championship after demolishing Yebin Shin, 6-0, 6-0, and earning a perfect 4-0 record in the competition. Earlier over the weekend, Kim first rallied past the No. 1 seed Elliot, 0-6, 6-2, 10-7, and then outclassed No. 2 Chung, 6-2, 7-5, for a 3-0 record and to zero in on the division title. Kim's other

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